Box 26 Folder 1

1950

Box 40
VARIOUS FIELD NOTES/ARTICLES
003

Richard S. MacNeish
99.38
Box 40 No 003

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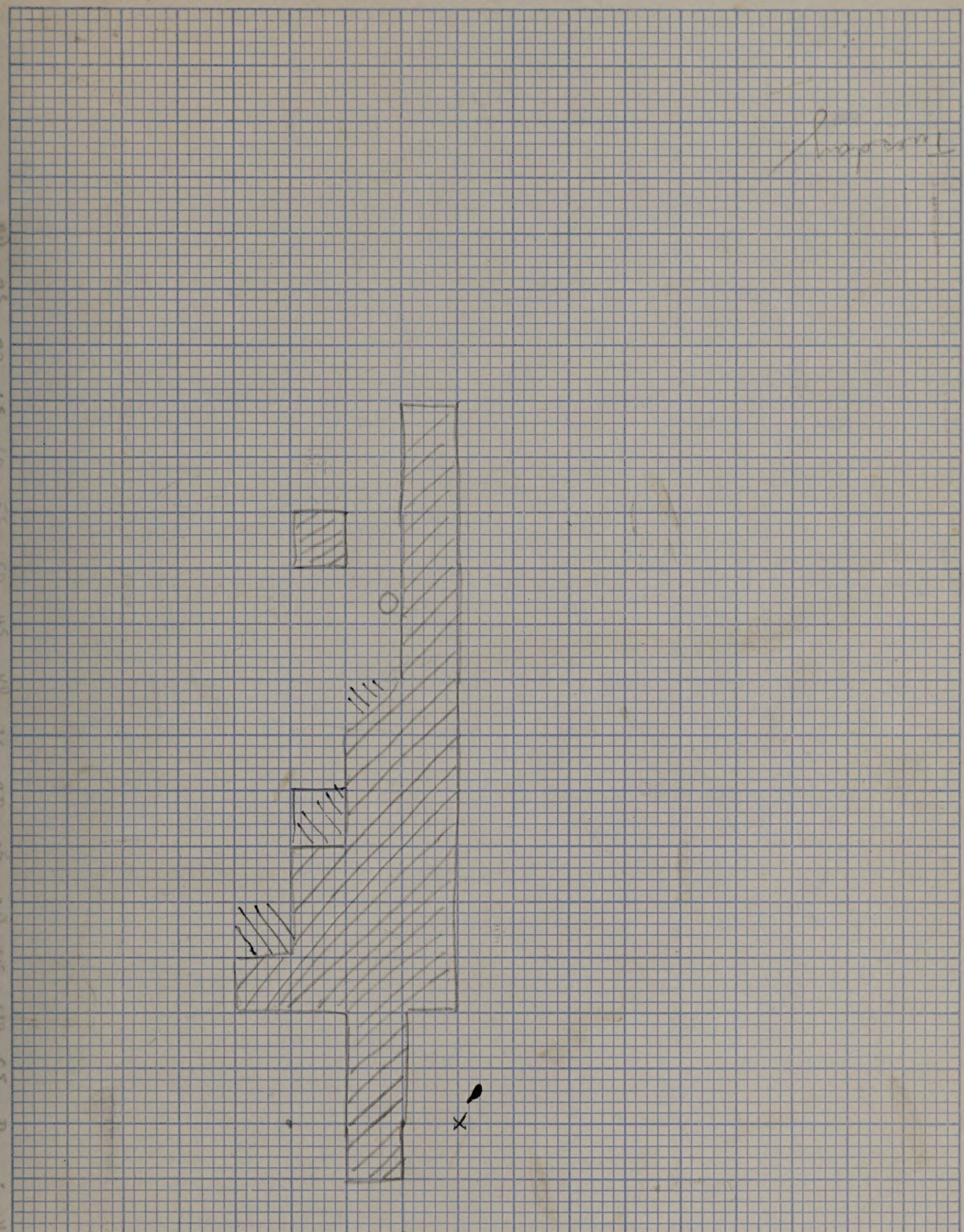

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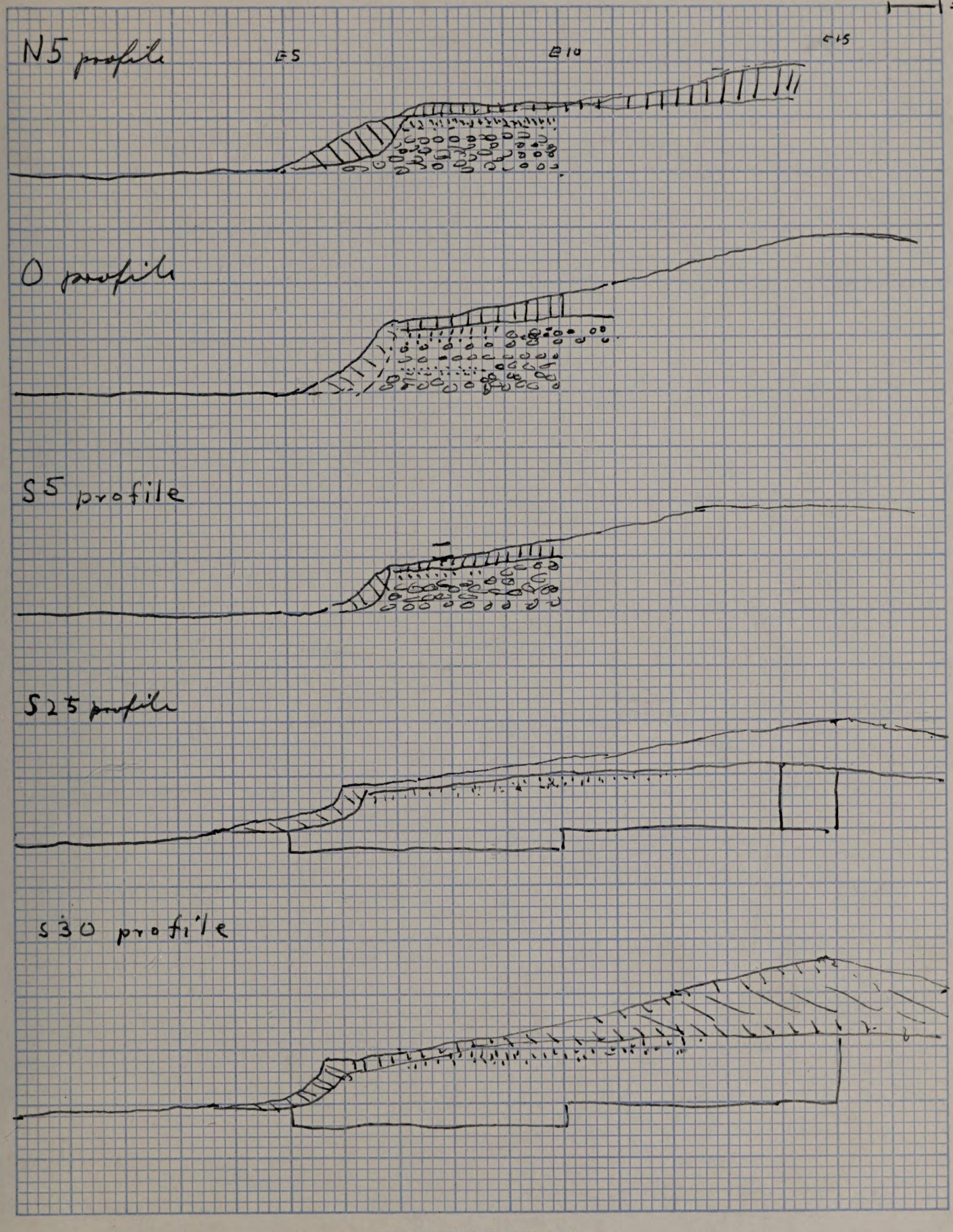
Bvohm site, Thunder Bay Dist, Ont - Pass Lake - See Diary June 2-8 in Blue Book

East-West Profiles

Key = ||||| = humus
/////// = fill
::::!!:: = disturbed ground
ooooo = gravel
:::::: = sand
|——| = 1 foot

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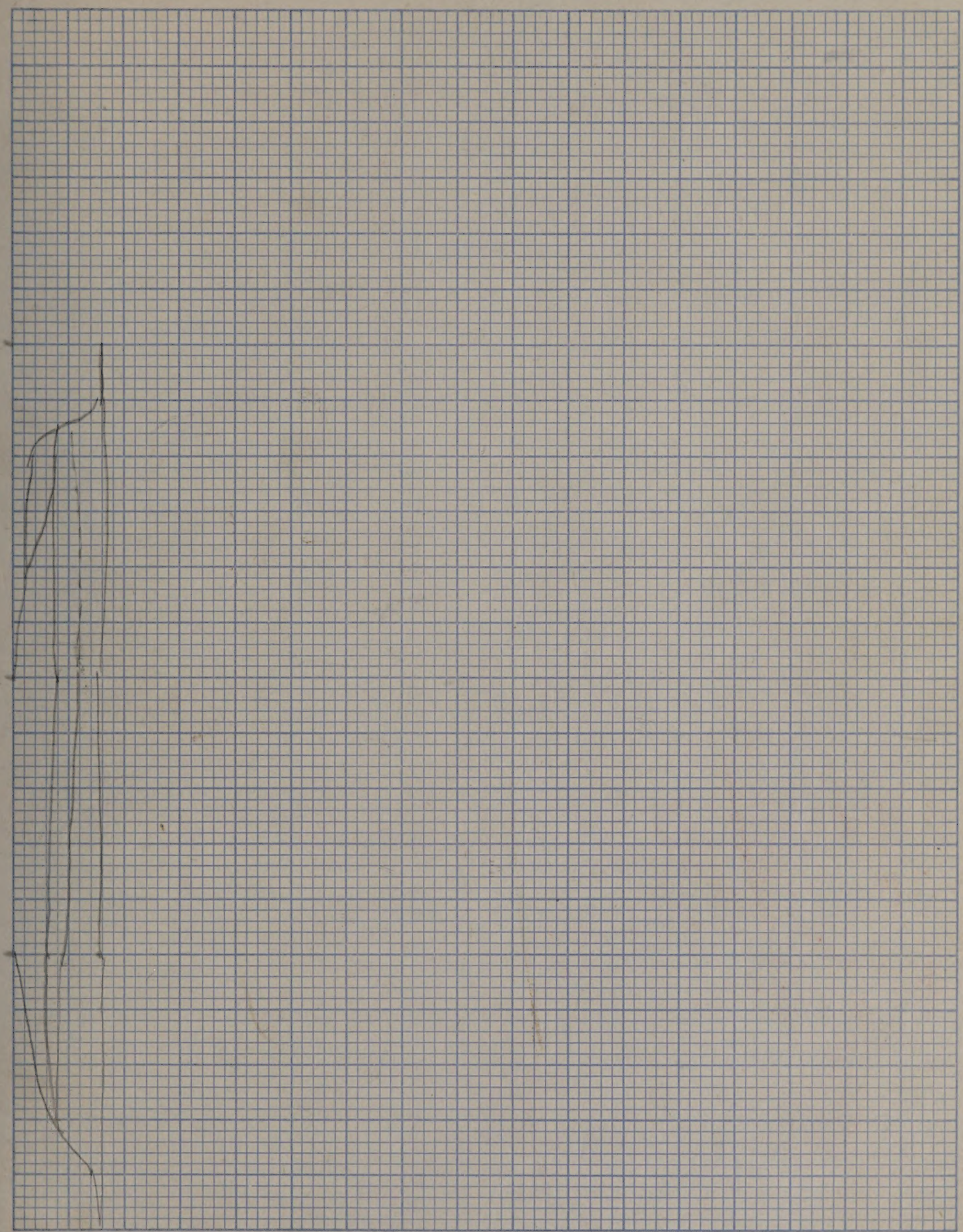


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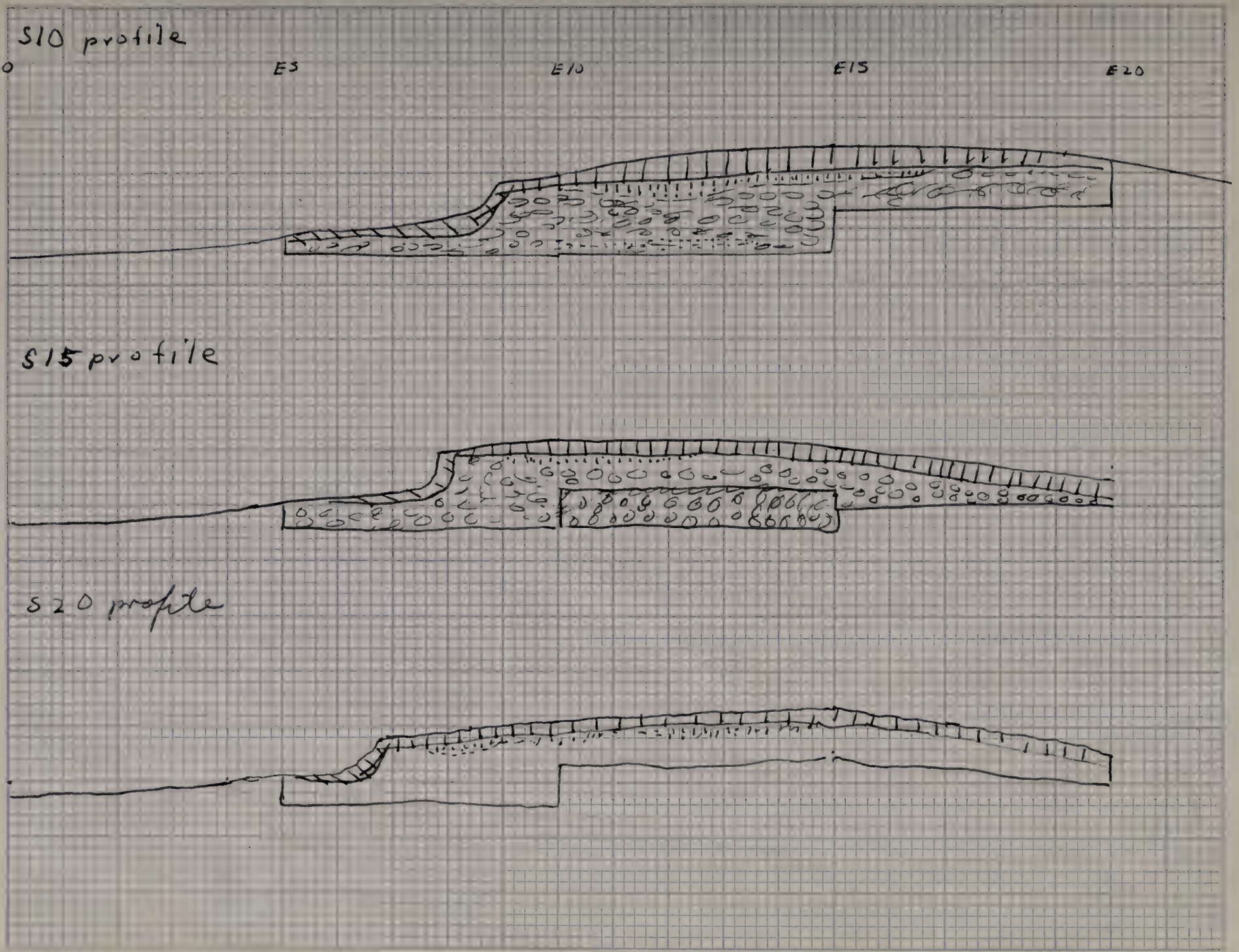
East-West Profile

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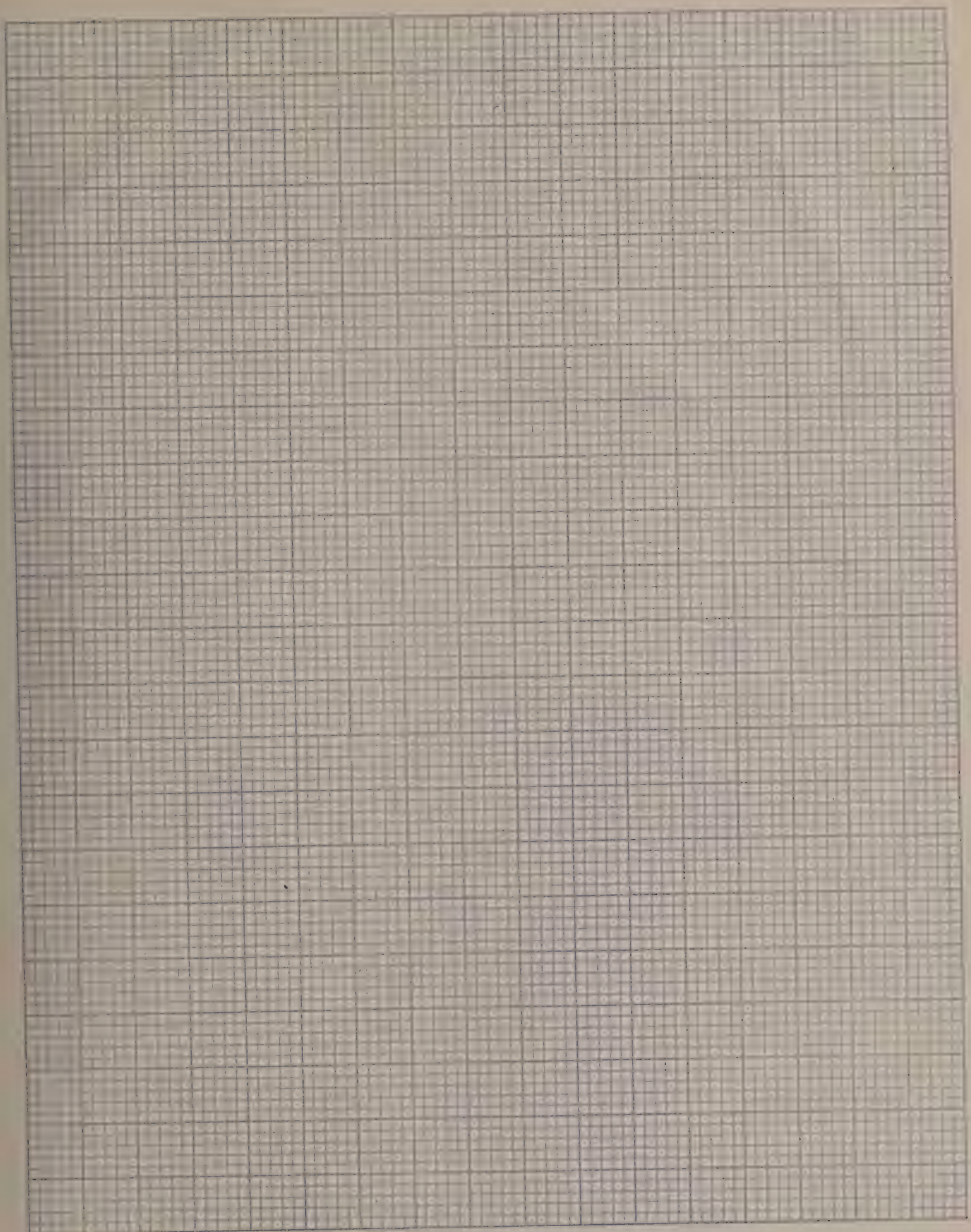


May 27 - left Ottawa
May 28 - arrived Nipigon
June May 29 - waited here in Fort
portages - gravel - ashes
May 30 - waited Fort Port
portage 1 st
May 31 - Cameron Falls + Ink Falls
June 1 - Nipigon, Port Arthur
+ Fort William
June 2 - Pass Lake
June 3 - waiting spring equipment
June 4 - To Pass Lake - repair
June 5 - excursion
June 6 - sewing + after Fort
June 7 - more excursion + following
June 8 - Port Arthur
June 9th Winnipeg - Clear
June 10th Winnipeg Rained
Lakeview
Rather
cooler
June 11th - Winnipeg
June 12th - Winnipeg - helpful advice
June 13th - Winnipeg + Lake Du Bonnet
June 14th - Kenora, Keewatin, Norman Lake etc
- Leaves for
15th - Norman
June 16th
17th
18th
19th

June 15th - En route from Winnipeg to Edmonton. Wrote letter and notes. Inked in profiles of dig at Brahms

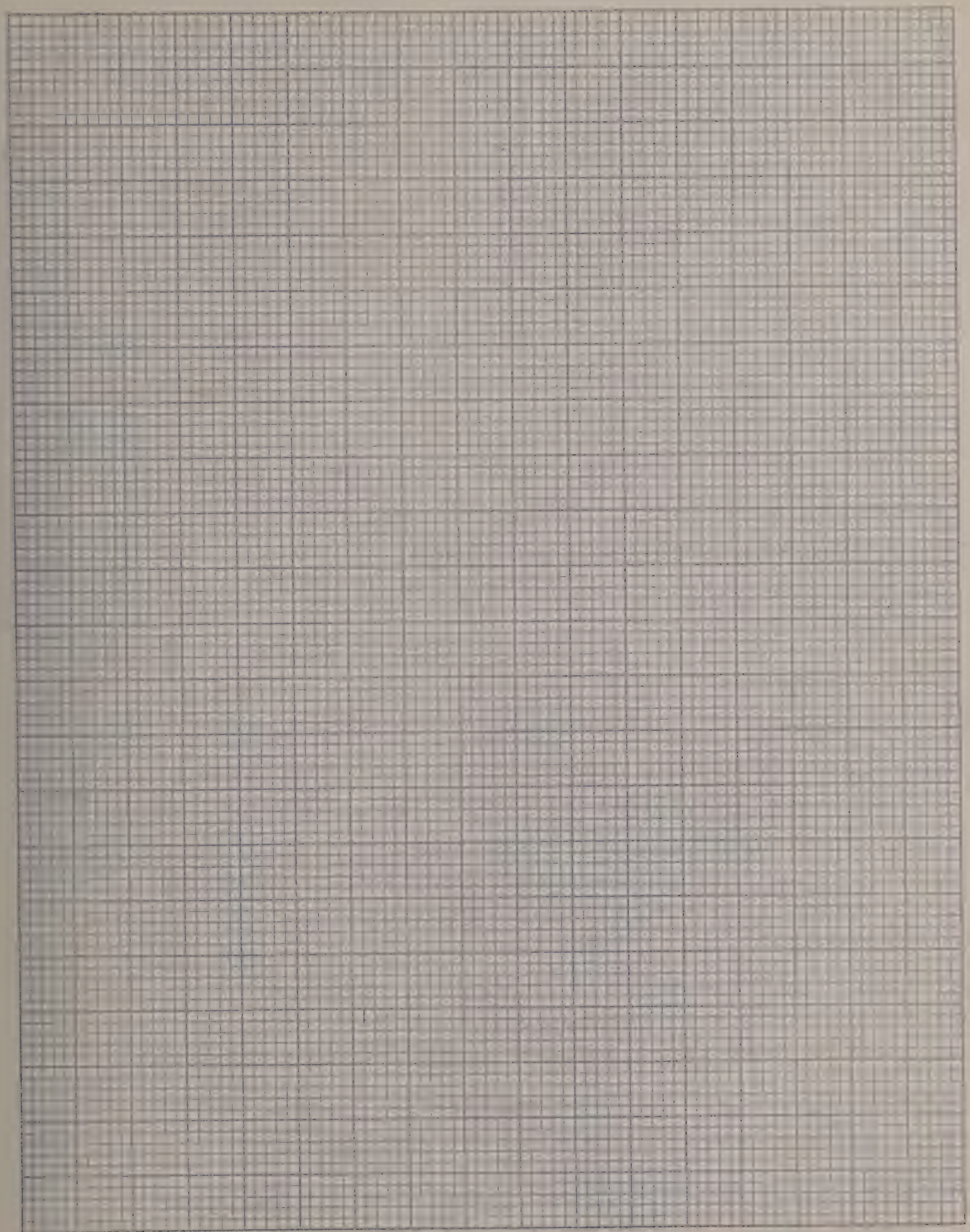
June 16th - Arrived in Edmonton - will stay as usual at the Gateway Hotel. Went to the bank and got two check books and $3.00 worth of stamps (tax) and checked on mail. Bought railroad tickets for Peace River as there is no plane to Ft. Simpson for a week and freight rates and plane tickets are exorbitant. Bought some good towels and a few other little odds and ends. Sent a telegram to find out whereabouts of my tent

June 17th - Rerouted baggage to Peace River

June 18th - wrote letter, changed addresses, found out tent had gone to Winnipeg arriving on Friday. Called museum in Winnipeg and requested they ship it to Ft. Simpson immediately

June 19th - Off to Peace River

June 20th - Arrived in Peace River early in morning and started checking on transportation. Can leave for Hay River Wednesday (tomorrow) if roads stay dry.



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June 25 – After driving all night we arrived in Hay River early in the morning about 10 o'clock. One item of interest was the Hay River falls and the escarpment which the falls flows over. Most of the escarpment is covered by sand and appears to have been a beach or near beach of Great Slave Lake for a considerable length of time. The winter road to Mills Lake runs along the edge of it for a considerable length and could be used during any reconnaissance of the area. Probably this same escarpment connects with the escarpment west of Jean Marie Creek and the rapids between Fort Simpson & ~~Simpson~~ Nahanni. In this general area it may well be the early channel & bank of the MacKenzie after the glaciation has allowed Great Slave to start draining down the MacKenzie rather than out the Peace River.

– Spent most of the day sleeping in the very modern Hay River Hotel.

June 26 – Most of the day was spent in attempting to line up transportation for Ft. Simpson. Met a great deal of success. – Archaeologically Hay River produced not one scrap of information. I doubt if there is very much in the area due to the marshy, very recent geological age and the cold north wind from Great Slave

– In the evening met Frank & Morris from Associated Airways and talked over transportation situation. It will cost me $70 (±) for myself and $80 for my baggage to go by C.P.A. on Friday with Associated will take me up for $190 tomorrow. Since the government pays me $15 a day I'll go ~~Associated~~ tomorrow morning

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June 27 — Took off at 8 o'clock with Turner from Aerocentral in a 2 motored small land plane. Took along Ronnie Lee from Ft. Simpson. Flew along the edge of the escarpment for a considerable distance and it looked most promising.

Arrived Ft Simpson airport at about 10:30 and of course, couldn't get to town until latter in the afternoon. Stan Byers of R.C.M.P generously will allow me to occupy the men's barracks and I shall eat with the Lee family. Saw Dr. Truesdale and Vic Shallcross as well as various other friends of mine.

Equipment had to be left at the airport. Also, my tent has not arrived and Frankie of A.A. forgot to put my shovels on the plane. Typical stupid inefficiency.

June 28. — Spent morning getting equipment in from airfield to the time of 4/0. Cairns of C.P.A. and Hugh of the Dominion Transport were most cooperative. Later in the day ~~spoke~~ called to Vic Shellack; who was going to Ft. Liard, to get in touch with Turner about the Nahanni trip. Asked some of the people about Nahanni.

Jack La Fleur — who has a trading post at the mouth of the Nahanni told me about a cave in Deadman's valley and spoke of the one a few miles from his post. He also told me about Bliss visit and excavation. He said that in the second room of the cave Bliss found 3 feet of dung + refuse overlying a hearth and some burned bone which overlay the clay (glacial origin) which overlay the rock floor. — This account does not tally with Bliss's brief note in the museum in which he said he found nothing but ~~check~~ perfectly with Bliss's tendency to withhold information and not to cooperate

It also was recommended I get in touch with Bus Kraus at Nahanni who knows the country

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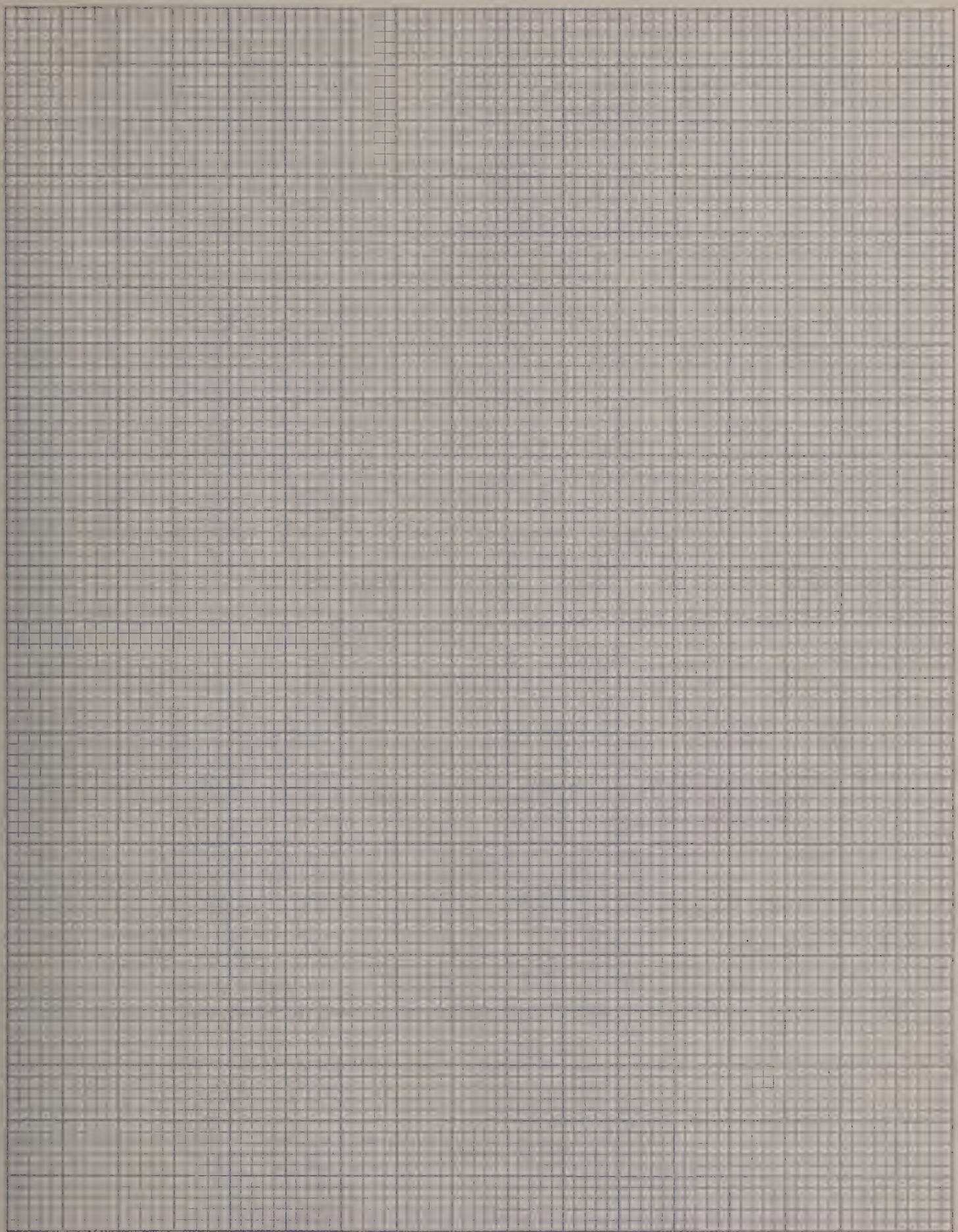
June 28 (continued) — I was, also, told once again of the site at the mouth of the Rabbitskin on the northeast bank and told that most of the arrowheads come from a depth of about 1 foot. This is site NWT — 4.

June 29 — Spent most of today walking around this island that Ft. Simpson is on. Examined rather closely the burned layers seen the bank on the low terrace between Dr. Tuesday House and the Fourday cabin in front of the Imperial Oil tanks. These may be basically caused by man's fire but close examination lead me to believe much of the burned earth came from brush fire. I believe this because the layer extend considerable distances and because close examination revealed not one flint chip or piece of bone. However, in a burned layer about 4 feet down in front of the hotel I did find some burned bone and rocks. Also, down on the flat David Michel found an arrowhead while digging a refuse pit at a depth of 2½ to 3 feet. Due to superposition the arrowhead was completely destroyed.

— Geologically there are 3 terrace on the Ft. Simpson Island. — The most recent one the sand flats on the south end of the island. The next terrace is about 50 feet above the water level and includes the area of Indian tents on the south top of the island and the north portion (½) of the island north of the ~~waters~~ wireless towers. The top terrace is about 80 to 90 high and is found only in the center of the island and includes the Hudson Bay Catholic church, Agricultural Farms — the white man's homes etc. The slough or ~~creek~~ separating the island from the mainland to the west seems very recent and interestingly enough seems to separate the



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3rd or high terrace of the inland from a foreland still high terrace of about 150 feet elevation above the river. Most of mainland stretching back to drift plain and beyond is this terrace. Further study of the land and aerial photographs is needed to interrupt this area or terrace better.

On Indian Charlie Chalo has come around and expressed an interest in working for me, seems interested in archaeology and is familiar with the Nahanni. Also, the mountie, Stan has informed me that walter McPherson is another good worker. I've set them both to doing a little interviewing for me.

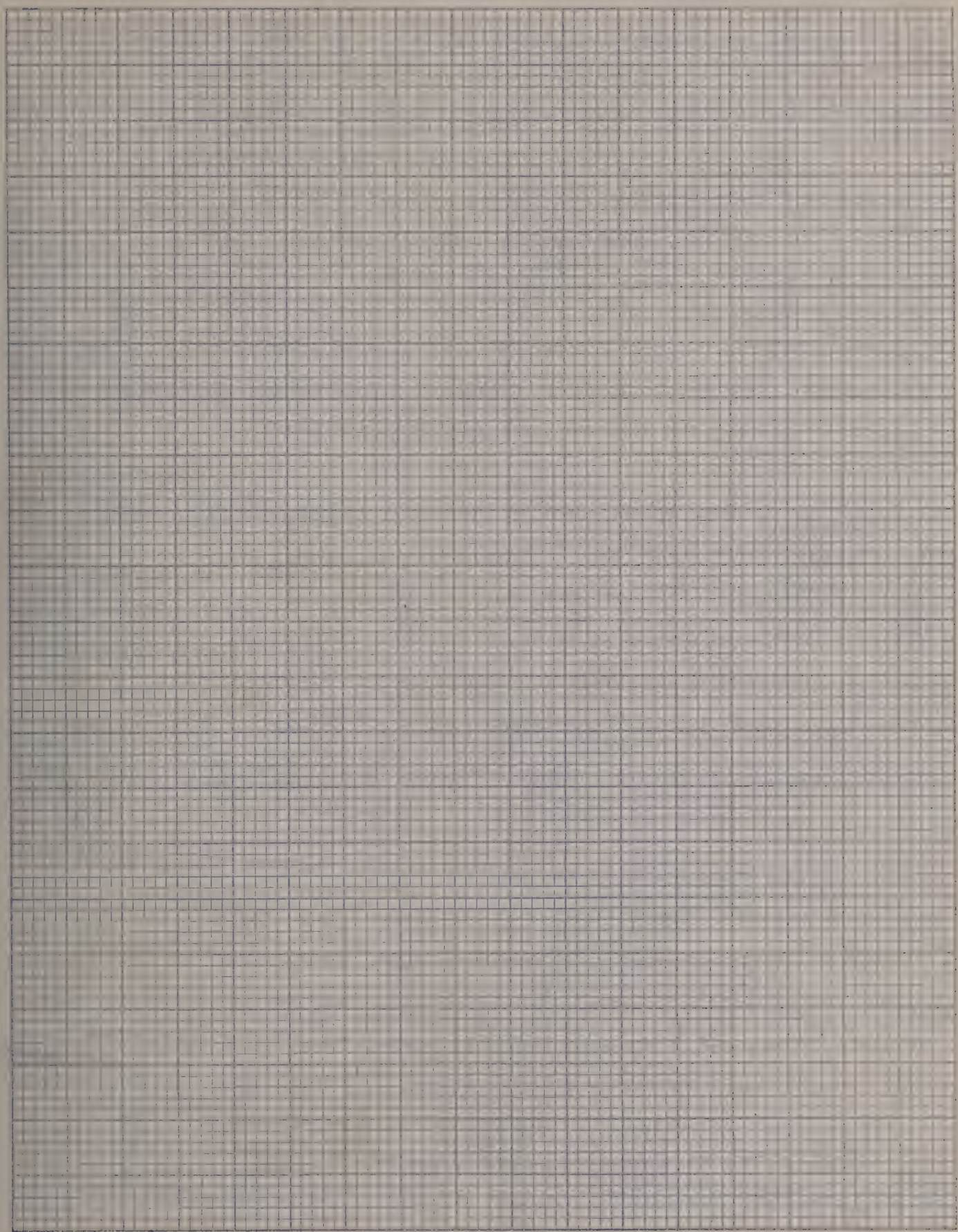
June 30.- Waiting to hear from Turner. Mail came but no tent or shovels. Evidently both got bounced from C.P.A. to make room for more important freight. Also, received a note from Uplands showing a remarkable amount of intelligence. They give me the authority to purchase mess kits (no doubt at the large department store on the ~~note~~ top of Nahanni Mountain).

Was informed of caves on the north Nahanni River as well as a site on the northeast arm of Trout Lake between the Trout River and a small stream entering from the north. Received info about a site at Deep Lake up from Marie Creek and about a site south of Wrigley. - Hope to check them all.

Looked at a series of excavations on the inland in the hope of finding buried ones - No luck

July 1 - Holiday - Turner arrive.

June 2 - Packed and got ready to leave - will have Turner, Charlie Chalo, Walter McPherson and myself. Took some Kodachrome shots. Plan on being gone 2 weeks -



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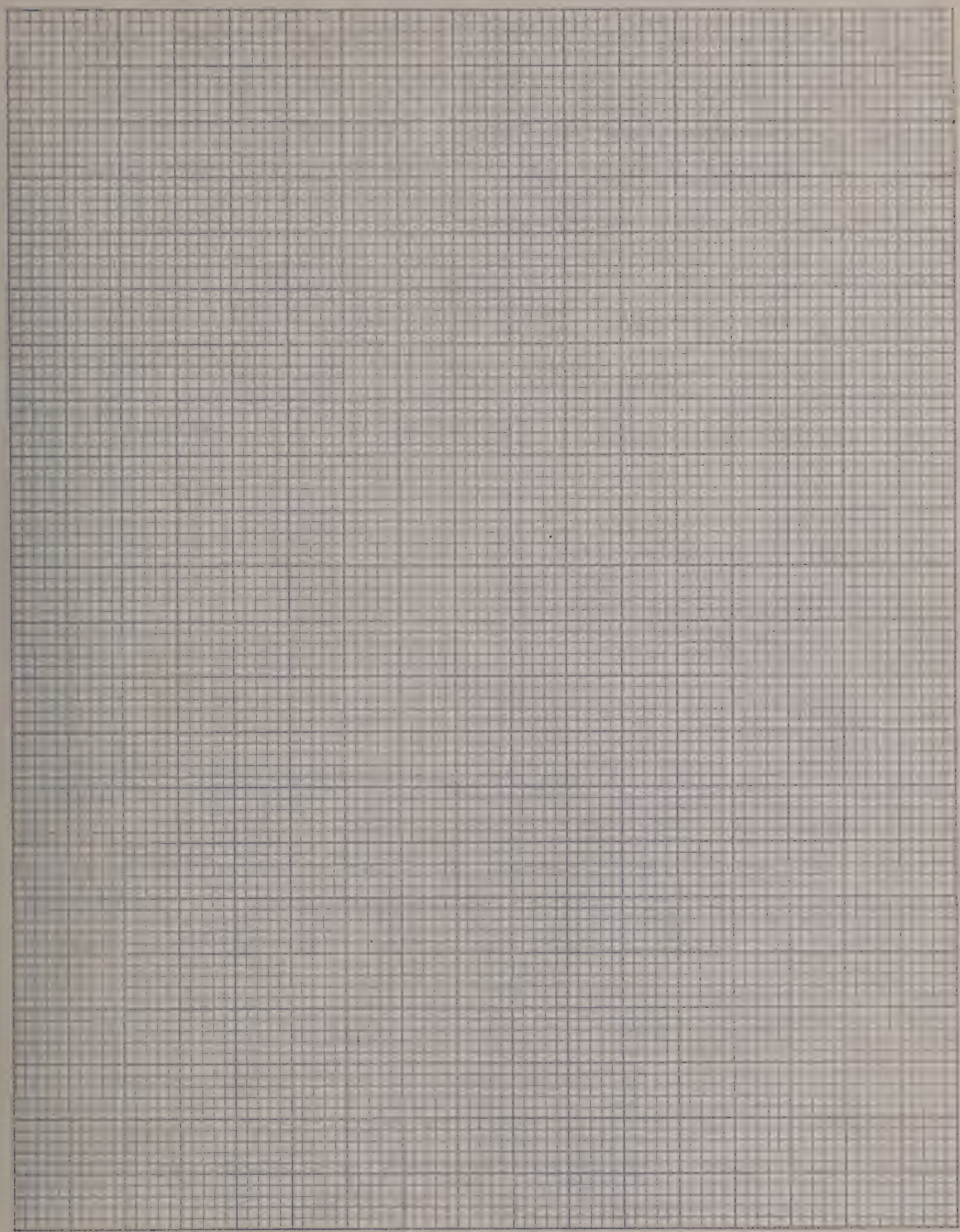
July 3 - Get packed in record time. I perhaps am taking too much equipment but better too much than too little and anyway the boat is large. left about 12:30.

The river is most interesting from Ft Simpson until about 3 or 4 miles below the rapids there is usually just one steep terrace bank (connecting with the 4th around Simpson. In rare places is a narrow lower terrace possibly connecting with terrace 2 of Ft Simpson. Generally speaking the banks are steep and the water fairly rapid and the shores look fairly youthful. About 3 or 4 miles below the rapids the dark banks give way to outcropping of shalely limestone evidently the Hay River, Jean Marie escarpment. roughly the situations seems to be this

we spent the night half way down the rapids

July 4th - As we moved up the rapids the limestone gave way to silt and 2 terraces appear. Popular river top of terrace might be worth while investigating further. Above the Popular river at the end of the rapids one finds very low banks no terrace, slow water and the river is very wide - This continues to Lindbergs - It almost looks as though the river is flowing down part of ancient lake or through a wide flood plain running north & south. Then above Lindbergs the banks increase in height up to 75 feet. Sometimes there are 2 terraces. On the cut banks at the lower bank silt gravel and sand overlay solidified grey-bluish clay of very possibly



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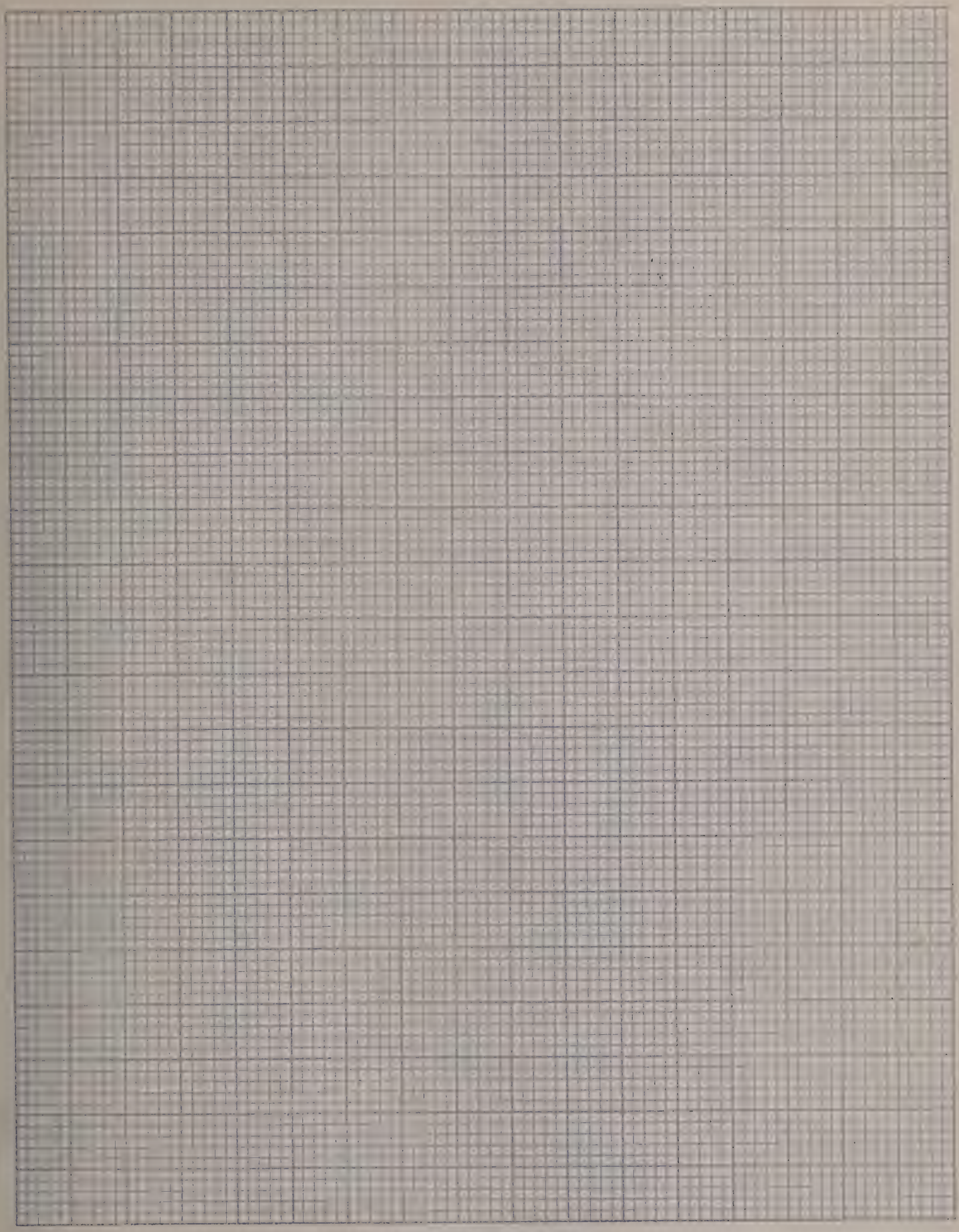
Pleistocene origin. It is particularly apparent in the north bank. Stay

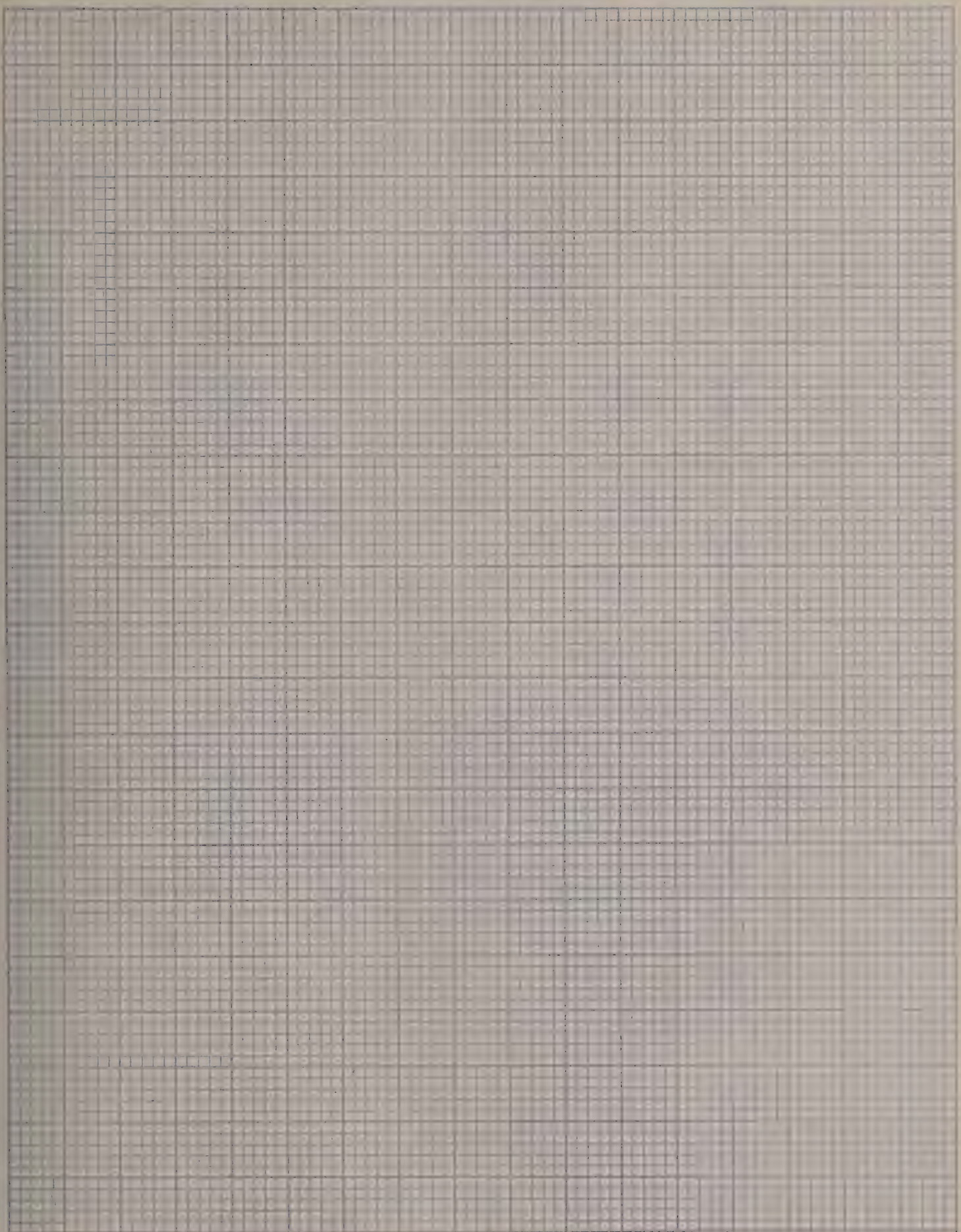
Stayed for the night just above Stan Turner cabin a few miles above Lindbergs.

July 5th — went on to Nulla Run to Turner's post. At the mouth of the Nahanni it appears as if there be remains of an old lake. Also, evidences of Nahanni and Laird River channels are apparent at Nulla post and supplies. Looked at 2 burned layers in the bank which probably are old forest fires. Jimmy Broad and Joseph Redrose of Nulla (Indians) told me of a site on the Moose Ridge - 4 miles down from the Forks road on the west of the creek. It was recommended that I go this way please.

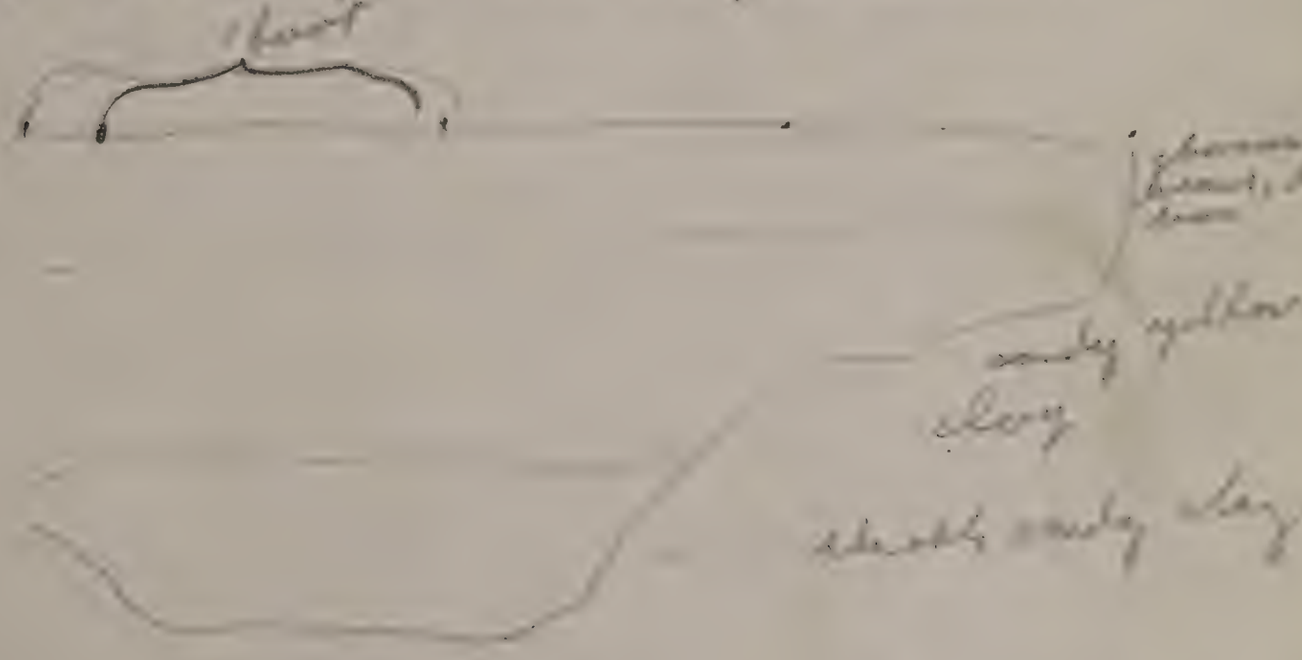
Went to Blue Knife for the night. Just below Jack Fl Blue Knife is a large terraced moraine and on the east end of it a remains of an Indian encampment.

July 6th — rain all day - Blue Knife told me of numerous caves around the hot springs and both he and Tony upon seeing pictures thought they had seen some. Heard of a large site just about ½ mile from Flat River at mouth of Black River. Also, arrowheads have been found on little knolls according to Charley

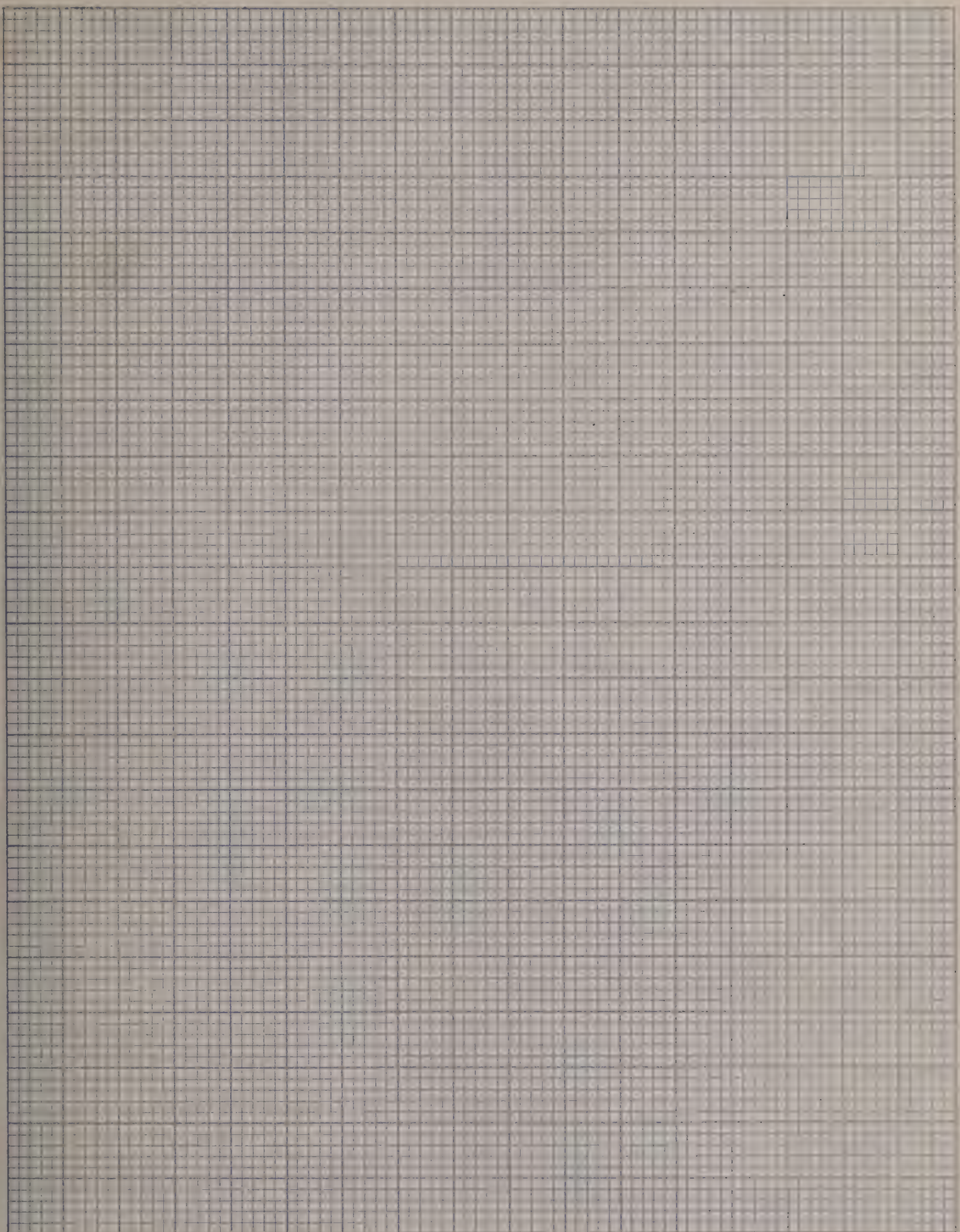




July 7th - rained almost all morning. Late in the afternoon we climbed Robinson Butte coming up from the west ridge & the cave is ⅓ way up that can be seen from the K ranch house. It ~~was~~ as well as one just slightly below it was full of rock with no sand or dust apparent anywhere. Then we clambered still on west up the mountain and came around to the south end at the base of a cliff on the west ridge to a cave that may be plainly seen from La Pine cabin. In this cave there was some rock on the floor and the roof appeared very flaky. However since there were pools of water on the floor we dug a shot hole 3 feet long, 1 foot wide and 2 feet deep. The profile was the following,



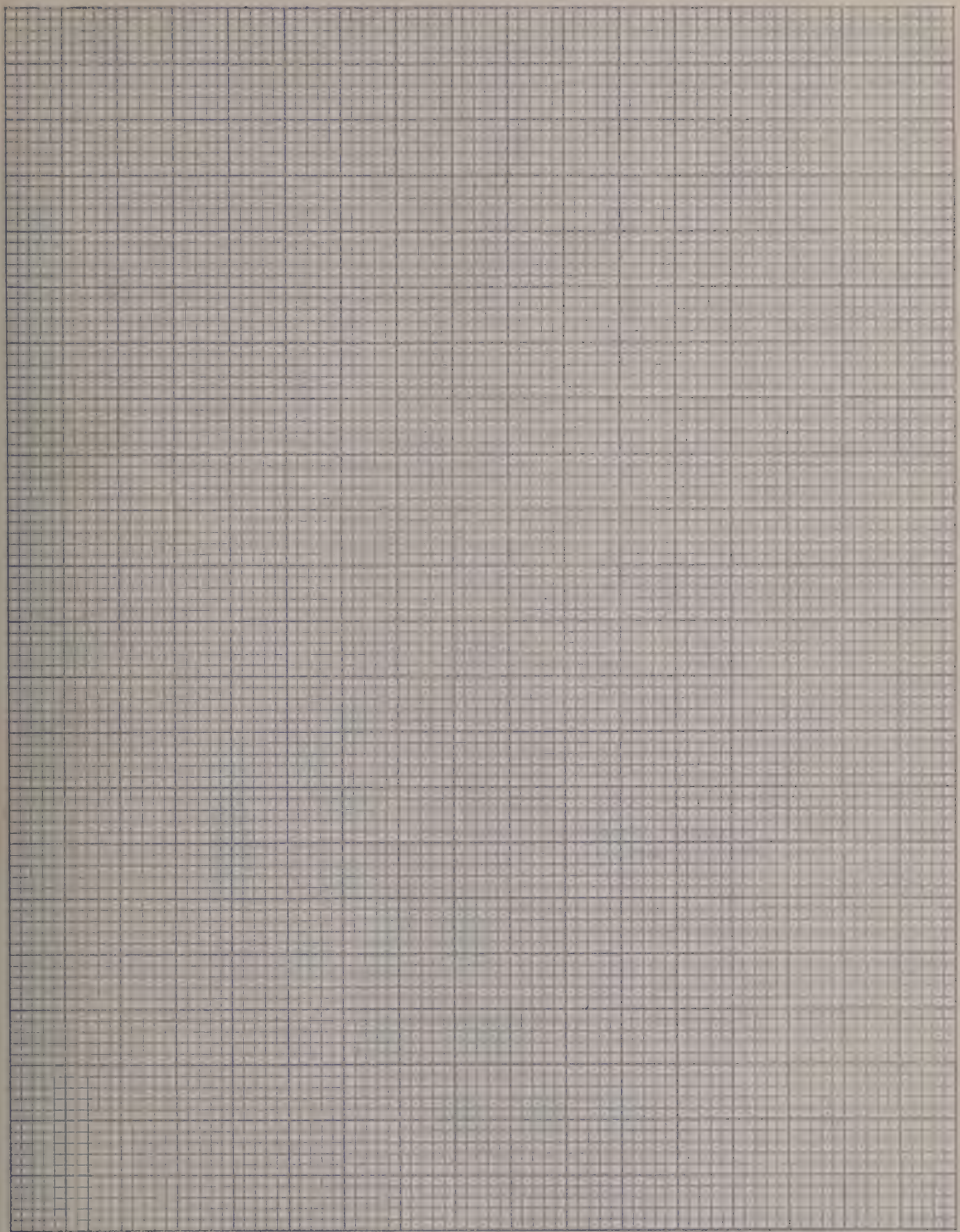

From the back of the cave one digs under the rock crawled into one a few feet. One in the west ends appears to be a chimney and probably is the tunnel formed by which the loose dirt & clay above came.



July 8th - Left Knuth and went up Wahoo's - Found a long journey through flat with numerous creeks and river channels and many tributaries. I believe with the help of an airplane one could surely work out the sequence of these channels. Charley paddled and the Doodle bottles on the flat when he once found an overhead bull moose at 50 in the very back. The rest of the afternoon it was just an all day paddle. Just below George Nelson's old cabin, opposite Jackfish Lake we found a very high terrace, Took a photo of it. Stayed for night about 1 mile north of the cabin.

July 9th. - Pulled up to Hot Springs in the morning. Found 2 guys in a rubber raft from Strathcona Alberta who had come down the Nahanni from Virginia Falls. In the afternoon went up the canyon right accross from (Trail) cabin looking for caves. Couldn't get into any though we did come across what up in back of Pirate's cabin and found a cave with a steel floor. Will investigate it later.

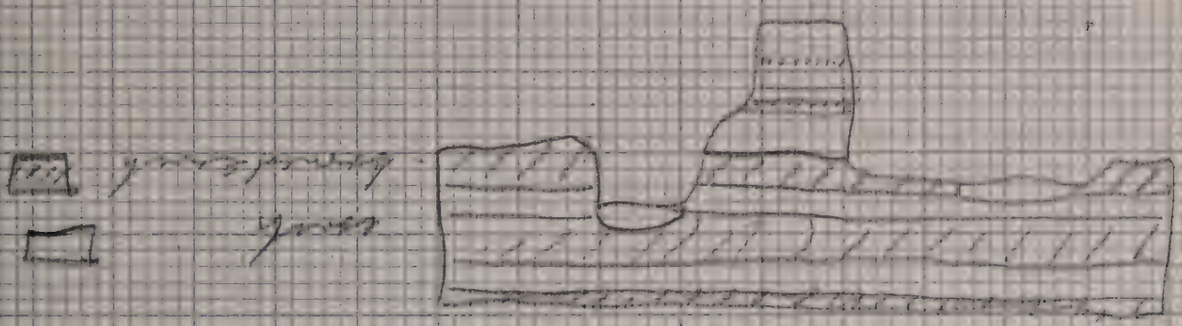
July 10th - On this day we walked on small cave in the second canyon up on the opposite side of the creek from Pirate's cabin. It was very high up and contained about 4 inches of gravel on it. Then we continued up the canyon to the top of the cliff and went northward crossed one overlooked Lafferty Creek canyon. Numerous caves could be seen on both sides of the creek but none could possibly be classified as



July 11th - This was the day we really visited caves. First we went up to the cave directly in back of Poole's cabin. This cave may be seen from the River. I would guess it is about 900 feet above the river. We dug a hole ~~about~~ 2' 10" into the floor of this cave. The cave would be about 12 feet in diameter. Stratigraphically the top 2 inches was dirt, fine loam, then there was a 10 inch layer of gravel overlaying ~~dirt~~ dirt very clay deposited by slow water. Then was another yellowish clay overlying sand, separating the cave floor from the rock was discovered patch of whitish clay. See Cave number I on next page.

The second cave was about 75 feet to the northwest and only slightly lower along the cliff. It contained ~~dirt~~ clay dirty, dirt and large rock. It appeared to have been smoked clean by ~~water~~ that would drain through a chimney or passage at its back.

The third cave was about 100 feet above cave 1 and about 300 yards down ~~the~~ canyon and across a draw. The situation was beautiful as it had been in the past and a good dirt floor. We dug a trench 8 feet long + 2 feet wide in it. It contained stop layer of burned leaves and reddish burned earth then some charcoal then another burned layer then charcoal layer then a burned layer then layers of sand and dirt interspersed with layers of charcoal. At a depth of 3½ feet we encountered frozen earth. Then ~~burned~~ layers of burned earth contained not one piece of stone nor flint chip or even worked rock. Also, there were pockets of burned leaves in each. In these strata + interspersed the stratigraphy as consisting of soil worked in interspersed by layer of earth burned by leaves + bark caught on fire during various times of forest fires



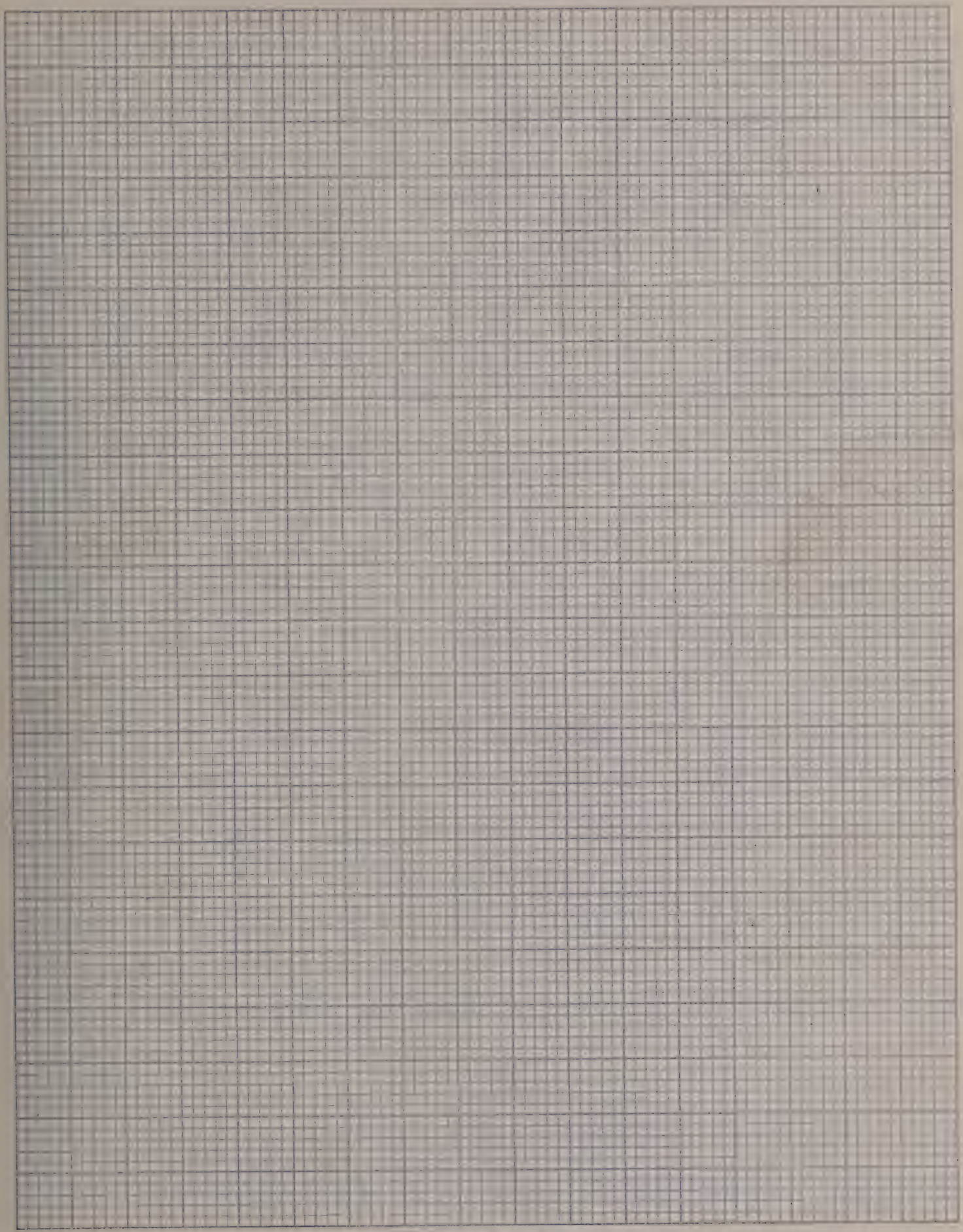
July 11th - about 10 - 201 yards from cave 2 and down about 200 feet we crawled to another small cave. It was only about 6 feet in diameter at the mouth and by 10 feet back narrowed into a Tunnel. It contained porcupine droppings and new flood deposits.

— After this we crawled back down the cliff and had lunch. After lunch we moved the cars to the same side as Evans's cabin and started up along the edge of the cliff directly opposite our camp just below Porterfield's cabin. We found one large cave that was full of rock fill about 15 feet above the river and facing south.

July 12 — Then we crawled up and down the river surveying the face of the cliff by transit. Just down and across from Evans's cabin we saw a cave about 100 feet above the river having a Sandstone appearance. We climbed into it & in reality it had a double mouth and contained about 3 feet of ~~debris~~ deposit of silt on its floor. No cultural deposits

— I made up the side of some cliff and slightly up stream at a height of about 250 feet above river we found a large rock shelter. We put a shot hole in it to a depth of 4 feet when we hit rock. No charcoal or artifact.

July 12 th - went from the Hot Springs to the second canyon about Blackmore's Valley. Just inside the first canyon before one gets to Caffey's ranch on the left hand side of the northeast side we saw a shallow cave or shelter which Caffey used as corrals. Saw the Forest party just above Jefferson's ranch - Cook - Lee of position - spent night just below second canyon



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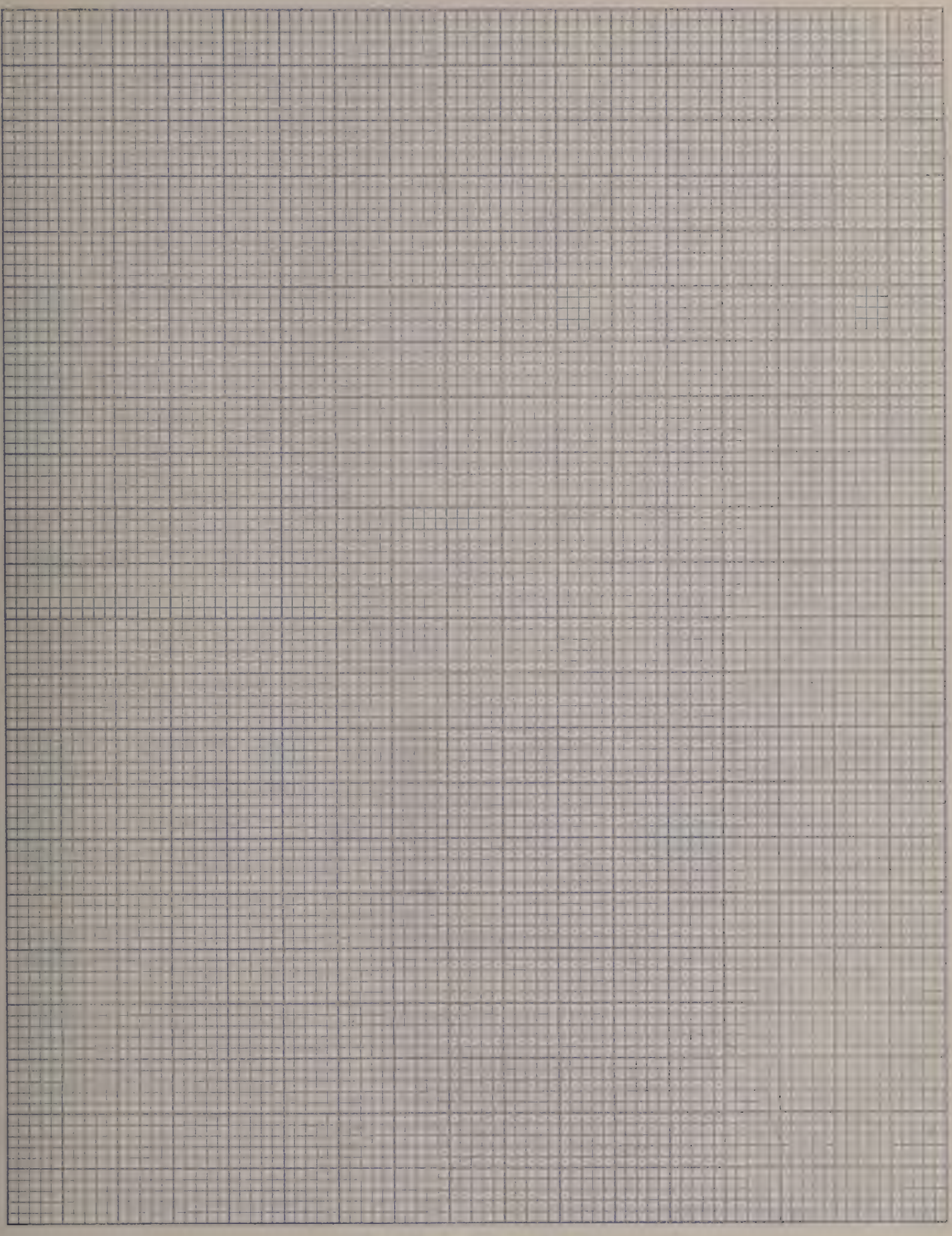
July 13 - went into Dog Creek Canyon at south end of Prudence valley and prospected for caves. Didn't find anything in them. Started to come across to Dog Canyon between Prairie Canyon & Dog Canyon but on viewing how it would be impossible to get in them. Then went down river.

- In evening went over to the 3rd (largest and farthest south) of 3 little buttes in the flats just above the Brown house. Reportedly Charley Chalo had found a projectile point there and we looked around finding nothing.

- Stayed at Brown's for the night

July 14th - went to Nelson and unpacked, purged bills and bought a few new supplies. In the afternoon boarded the Kuskan Bay boat for Ft Laird. Met Jimmy Read and his canoe and started for the return trip. The two appears of the Yukon from Whitehorse to Dawson was most unpleasant.

July 15th - Arrived in Ft. Laird about 10 o'clock unpacked and camped at Wally McLeod's place and put new supplies in the mounties store (Mr Jean Read) Talked with a number of persons about Atlin and information seems good. Bonnie Lake seems a good possibility according to Desmond C and a number of other. Emile from Atlin and Jim Klondike told me of rules on the west end of Frobisher's Lake near the mountains. Jim Bland from Atlin and John Balisse located of Trout Lake down of the mouth of Monkey River. down from the water road on the Monkey River. Desmond C says he gave Balisse directions from Bonnie Lake. Was the head of water on the road beside of Landy Lake (B.C.?)



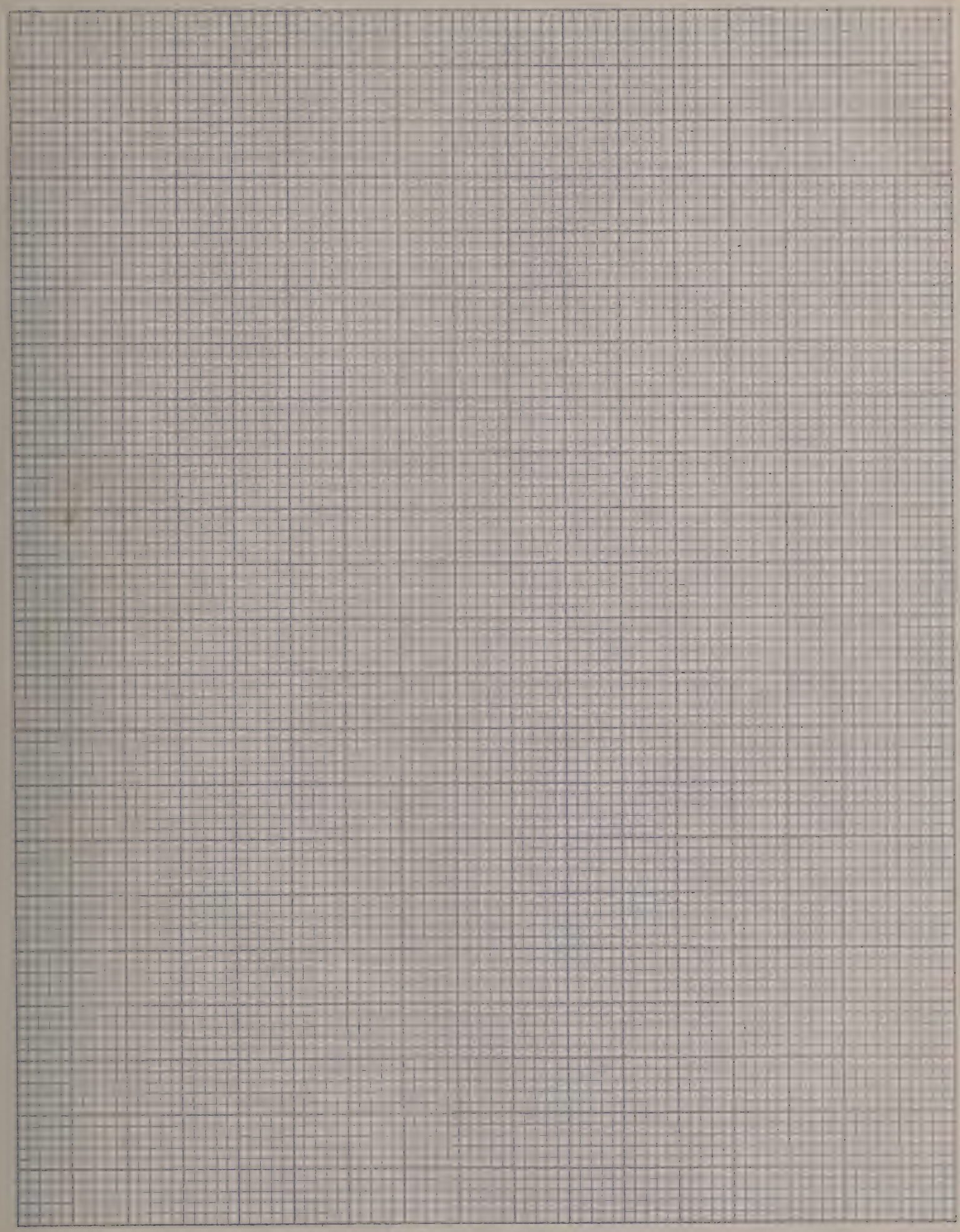
July 16th - Bought supplies from Jack Lowe for trip to Fisherman's Lake. Took off Eastern the flower with full pack (about 40 lbs.) and walked 3 hours to the creek then 2 hours down the creek and 2 hours across the lake to J. Yorkie's cabin. It incidently rained that night

July 17th - In the morning J. Yorkie showed us the trail to the head of the canyon and a route to the ridge. We started around finding
N.W.T 41 cairns etc. The site is on a bench about 50 feet above the present beach

Then Johnny took us back from the shore (west) into the gap to a large outcrop of flint at the foot of the mountain.

On the trip back about 300 yards from the outcrop on a terrace about 700 feet above a
N.W.T 42 - small stream at the edge of a clearing we found a small site. It contained obsidian flake knives flint chips scrapers etc. It is about 3 miles back of J. Yorkie's house right on the trail. We departed on good terms with Johnny and the rafters [illegible] 2 weeks, but they returned for 3 hours but finally [illegible] longer made up part

— went back to F. Lake [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]



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July 19th — rain and bought supplies for Bonnie Lake trip - New mosquito screen - Conclotte home from Collins and Drucker

July 20 — Jeard to Bonnie Lake - 11 hours with 30 lb. pack through water most of the way Camped at Alec Imbra

July 21 — In the morning went to the south end of the Lake — came ashore at Alec Imbra cabin and then went east from his home past the inlet or creek to the next point. On this point and the flats around it we found flint chips, bone pieces etc. The flats are only about 5 to 8 feet above the Lake level.

NWT 44

After digging in a bench we located the 5 foot bank, or more correctly water and dug in it of the flint fractured materials. The water which [illegible] is very pronounced runs back toward Alec's cabin

NWT 45

— The afternoon was spent digging around on the flats 250 yards east of Alec's home and along the water front 300 yards west of the home. Artifacts were found. The materials and location on the Lake gave it the appearance of being very recent.

NWT 46

July 22 — Bonnie Lake to Ft. Jeard

July 23 — Bought supplies - it rained

July 24 — Fort Jeard to Nettle Indian encampment

July 25 — Nettle to Ft. Simpson

July 26 — Unpacked, cleaned equipment, paged off the mail, received and read mail, got my laundry

July 27th — Interviewed Chief Cleo about Rabbit Skull Cave — so called because of pictures in the rock. Further he mentioned he had never gotten any on the Petitot Peninsula. I suspect he may have relevant letter thought about my little stuff on that side. If a small pot broke from a bench of a dig may dissolve the Mark Peninsula Party to investigate

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July 28th – Found and definitely the location at which Mrs Truesdale found the large pmfc blade & photographed last year. It is located on the west bank of the Mackenzie River on the edge of the bank 50 feet inland at the first neck coming in from the west down from the entrance of the Arctic Red R. mouth of Trevor Lay, will investigate this further in the future

George Jefferson brought me a stone harpoon point he found in the garden 14 years ago. It resembles Cobar points superficially but is not one. He broke one his garden but no flint chips etc were apparent.

N.W.T 5

July 29th - Cached Jim Chalo's boat, bought supplies and gas. Got ready for another trip

July 30 — went from Ft. Simpson to the mouth of the Rabbitskin River

N.W.T 4 — Investigated the site on the high terrace on the northeast bank of Rabbitskin - Mackenzie junction. Found a few scrapers, part of a pmfc and projectile point. Took off the the burnes and gravel layer in front of the house and post holed all over in back of the house. No

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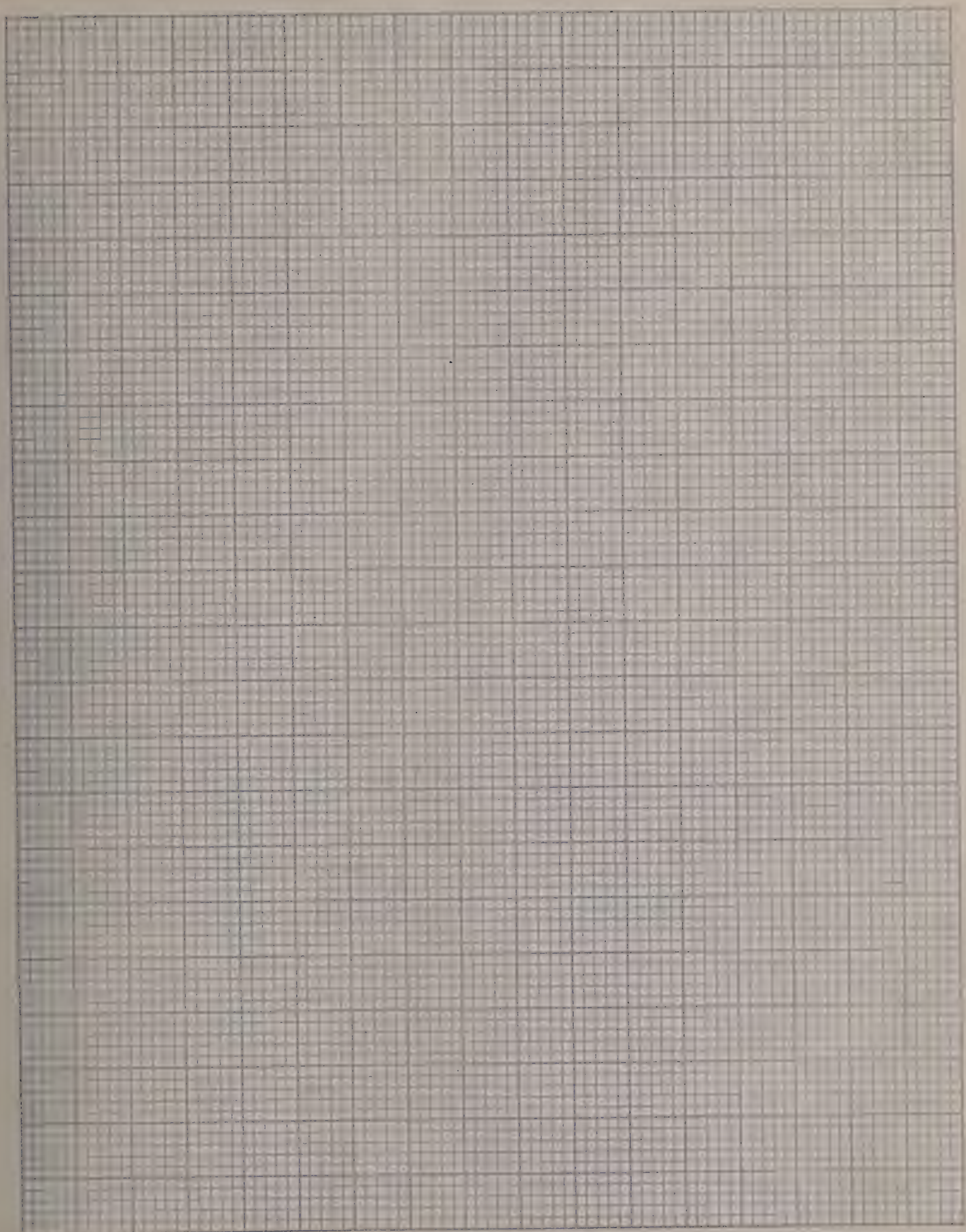
where on the artifacts more than faint below the plow line nor on any undisturbed features associated with the artifacts.

July 31 – Rained at night. Tent leaks very badly Rained part of the morning. At noon went up the Rabbitskin to the forest regrets were repeatedly flint chips were found on the top of the south bank.



July 31 – Vegetation was dense and 9 test pits revealed no chips. Then back to the south of the Rabbit Hill and we investigated both the higher and lower terrace on the ranch east bank Jabonny Arroyo and he found nothing new. We dug for about 2 hours without finding a flint chip. Then [illegible] the Rabbit Hill to N.W.

NW T. 4 Pottery? — The day came now on the edge of the bank just N.W. of the house. On the surface, in the grass and newly just under grass over the bank we found small piece of burned clay. Eventually I picked up all the burned clay I could find. It is [illegible] sandy about 1/2 inches thick and has been intirely & externely super (much grass) most of it is grass tempered though some is grit tempered. Two pieces have incised marking and one appear to be the rim of a vessel. Most all of it in my hand being between 3 and 4½ and well fired being orange from surface to surface. For a considerable length of time I considered it to be about from between the bags of a house that has been burned. However, the excellent preservation of the [illegible] the evenness of the thickness negate this possibility. Age of the pottery due to its position is unknown. But my pottery from this area is remarkable and extremely important. Before I definately pronounce this pottery, I would appreciate many [illegible] expert opinion.

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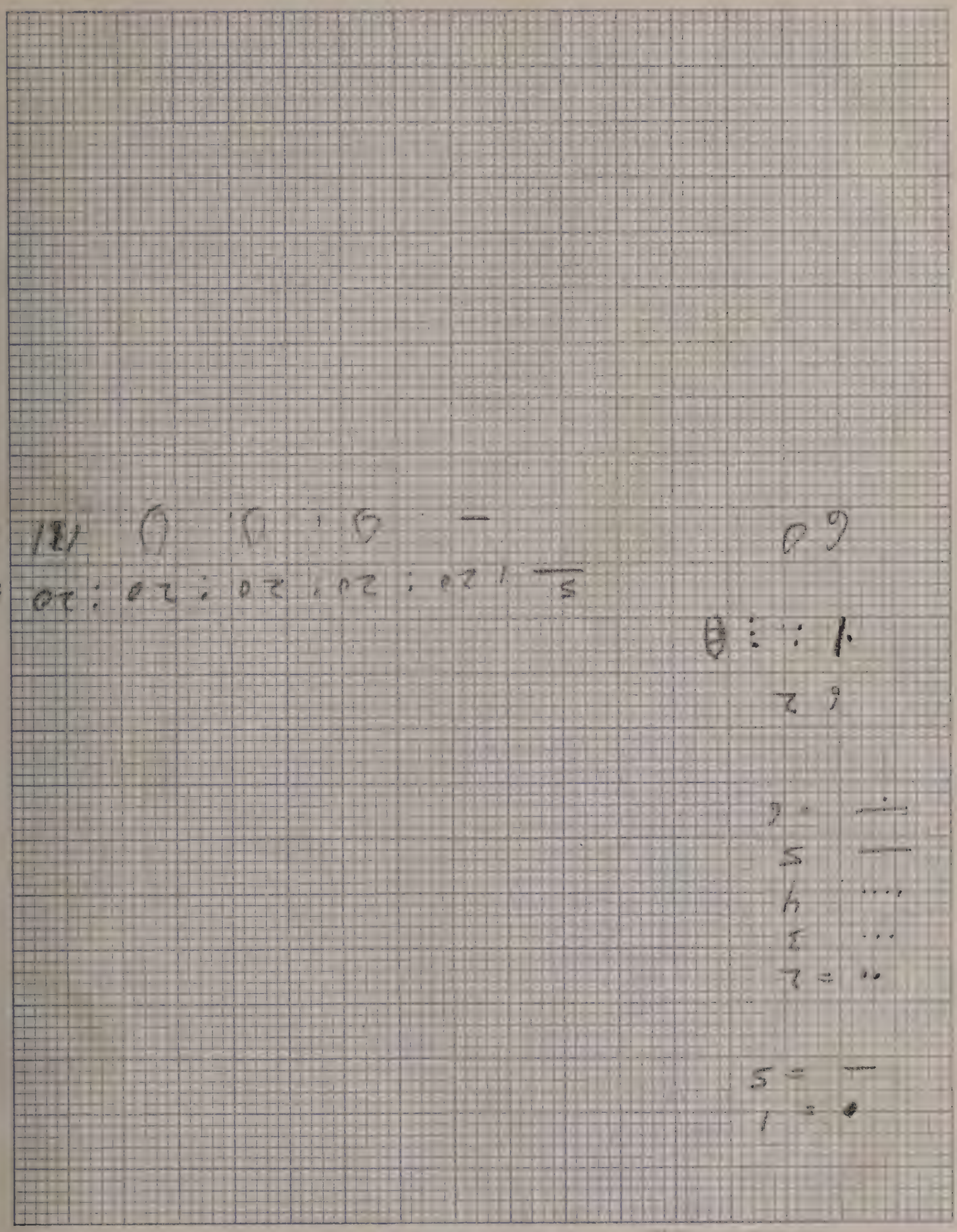
Aug 1. — In the morning we ...
... Times, being interrupted by ...
... Times. Pulled out at noon and stopped ...
... the S.E. bank of Alpena. Fine ...
... On the second Times, about 3 feet ...
... mud at the bottom of Lake ...
... Lake. Came on the Alpena ...
... and moved about after ...
... Telegraph of U.S.L.H. ...
... [illegible]

2 — After breakfast ...
... and the 2 Rivers ...
... to the village ...
... Lake Charlevoix ...
... of Round Lake ...
... [illegible]

3 — Rain — ...
... [illegible]

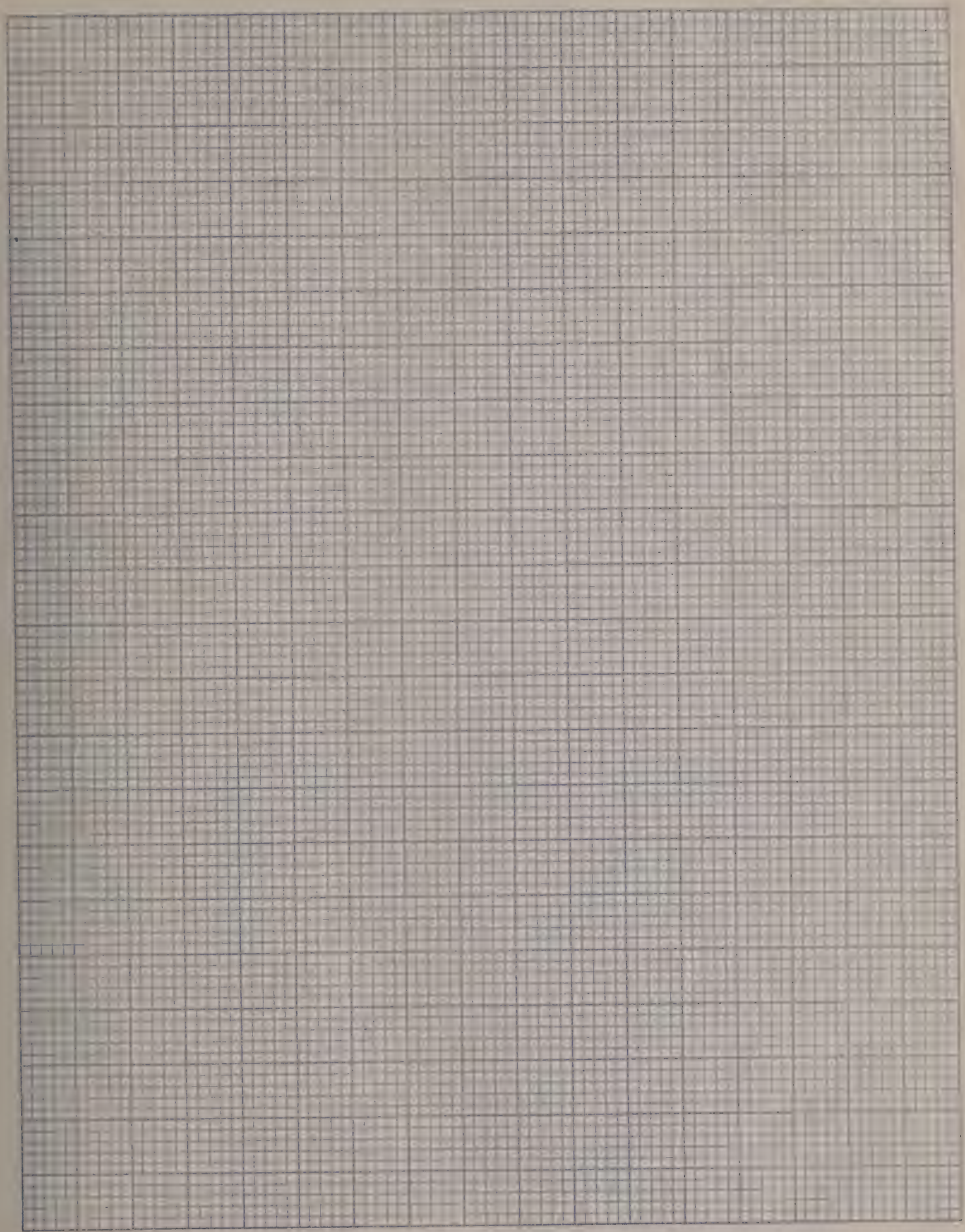
4 — Returned to Alpena ...
... [illegible]

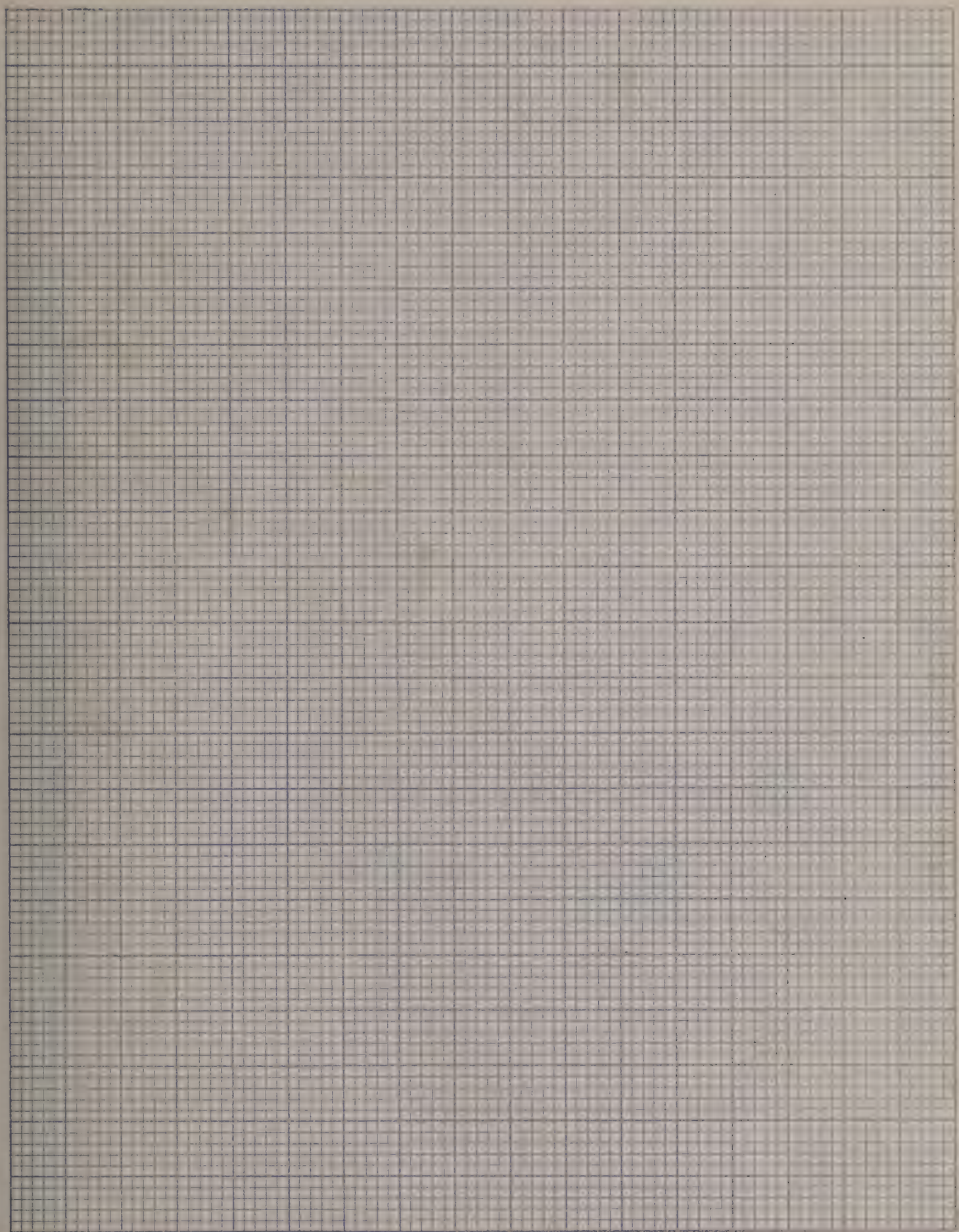


Aug 12 — On the advice of old man Betallie we back tracked to his old cabin just accross and above the entrance of the south Nahanni. We dug inside his house and found a flint chips and the base of a large knife. Then back down the river to Carlson's cabin and some digging around it. Snake still on the River. went up the mouth of Root river and dug on south bank

N.W.T. 49

Aug 13 — Travelled from mouth of Nahanni to mouth of Willow Lake River and got caught in the rain.

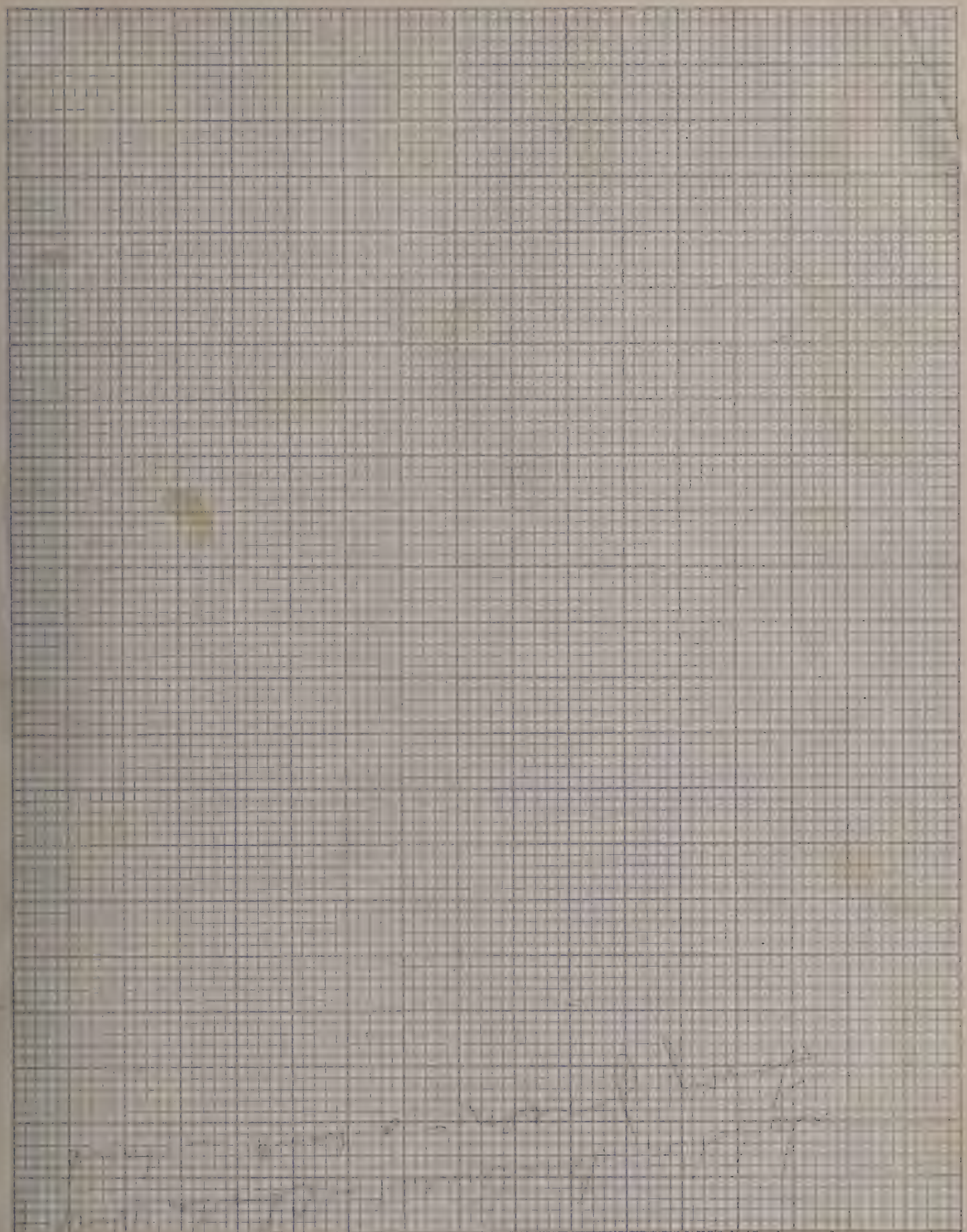


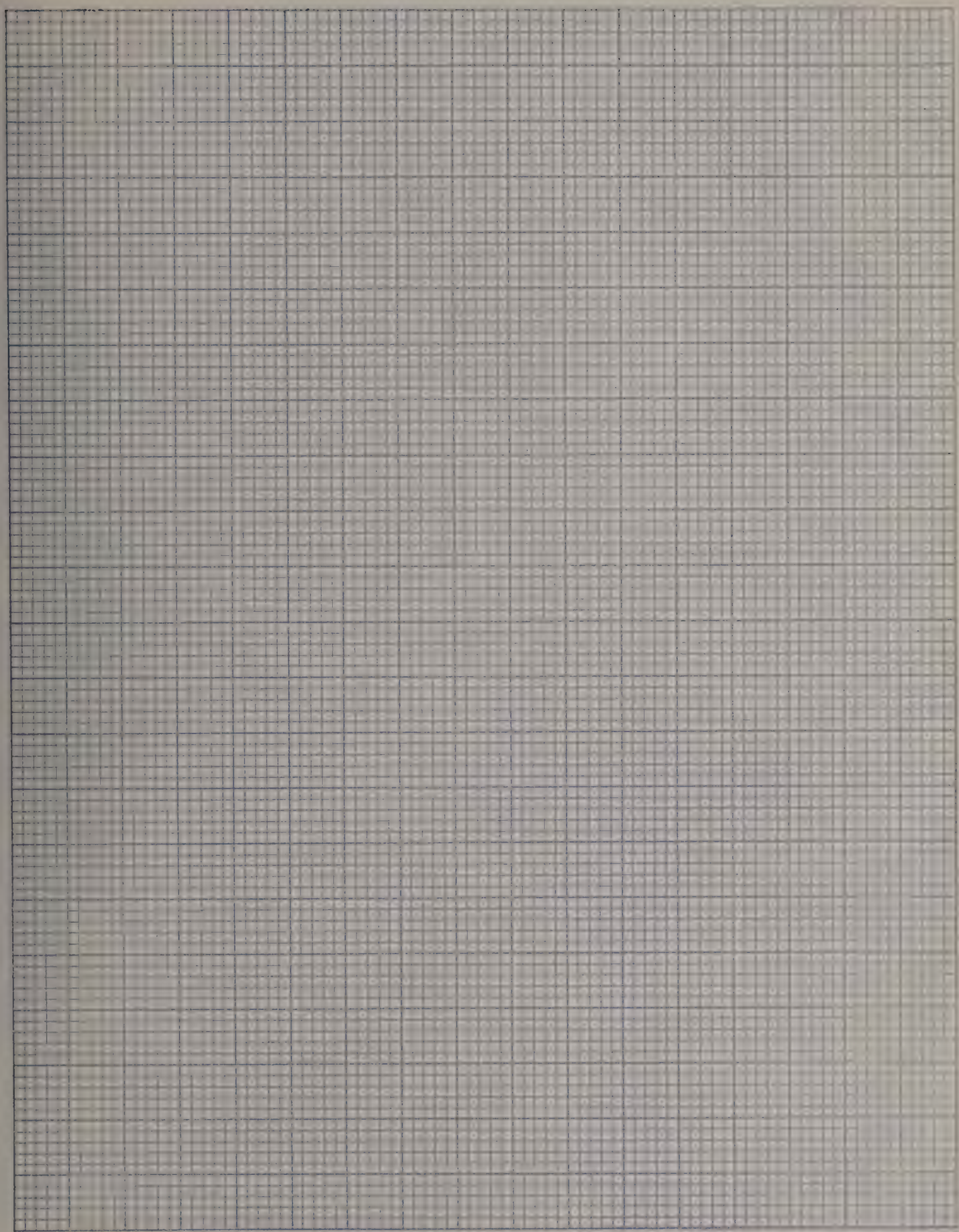


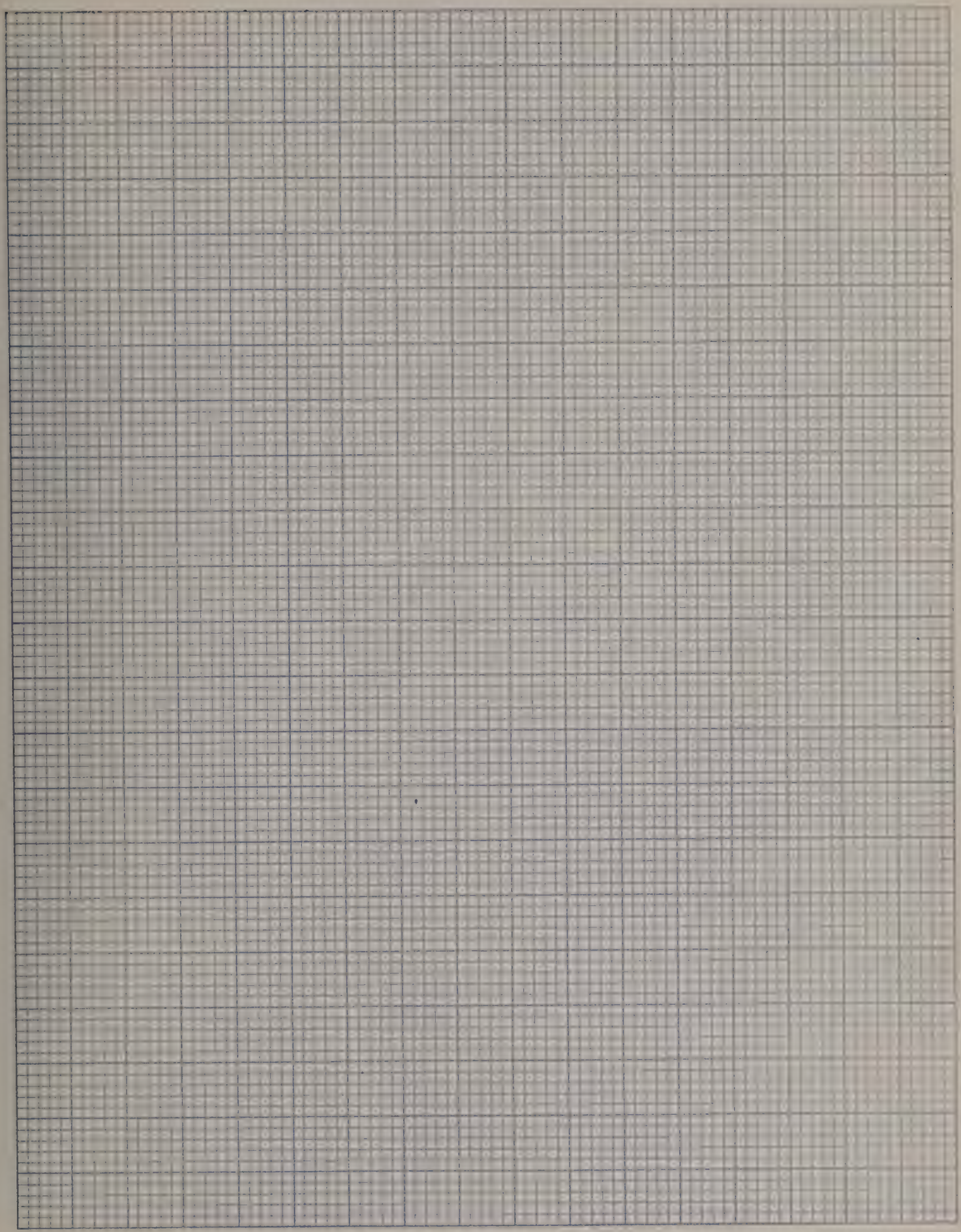
A Chanteuse

110 12 122 St
Edmonton, Alta

I spent months [illegible] at Wabamun, Alta
hugging a well hole at Imperial Oil Road about
200 yds from lake at depth of 10 & 12 feet deep
— Made of poured [illegible]







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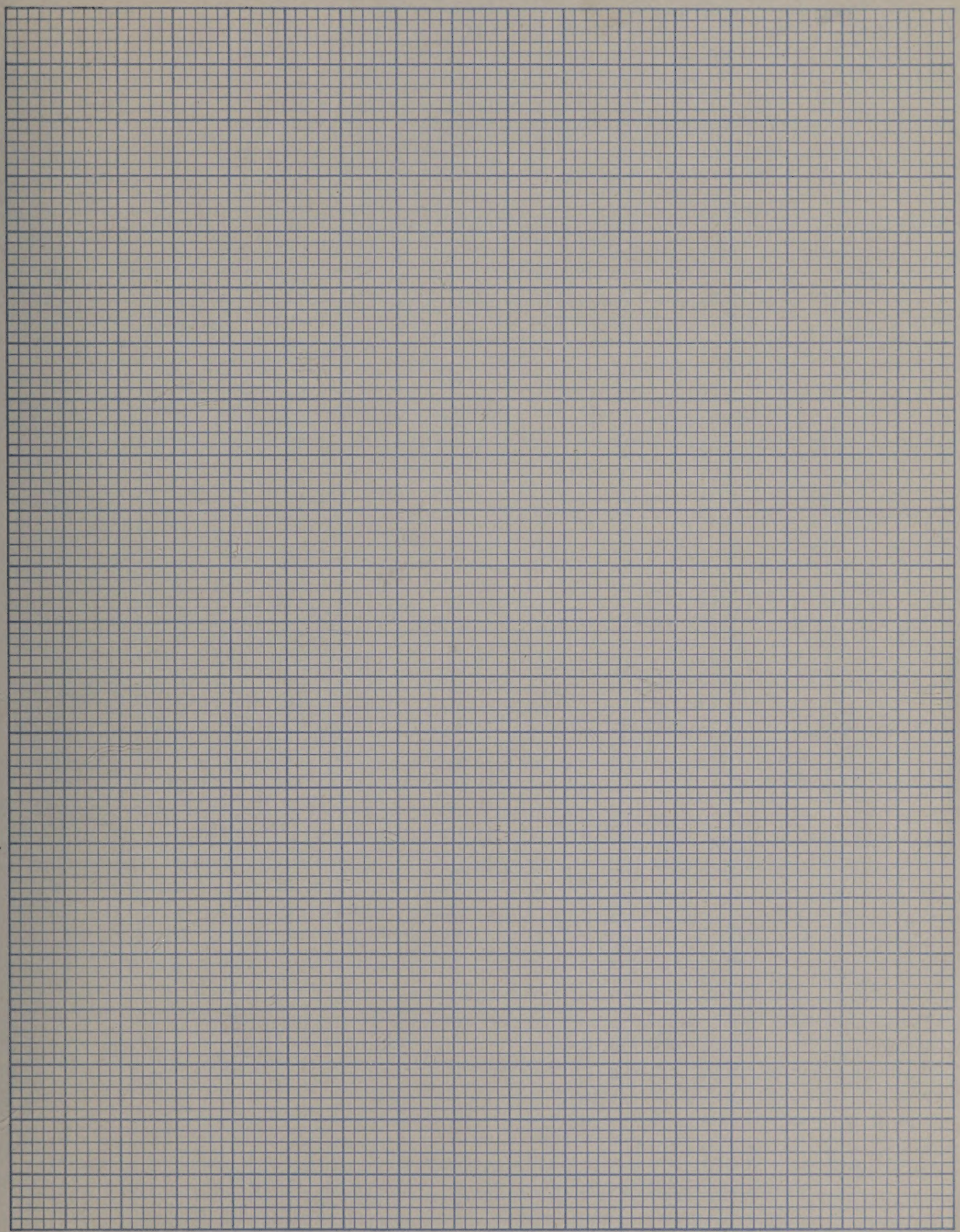

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